FBIS DAILY REPORT

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U.S.-USSR-UK NUCLEAR TEST BAN MEETING HELD IN GENEVA

LD211142Y Moscow TASS in English 1123 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Geneva, March 21, TASS--A meeting was held here today of the delegations of the USSR, the USA and Britain to the talks on the drafting of a treaty on the total and universal ban of nuclear weapons tests.

ADDRESSES DELIVERED AT DISARMAMENT COMMITTEE SESSION

LD211848Y Moscow TASS in English 1806 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Geneva, March 21 TASS--Addressing the Disarmament Committee session today in connection with the preparation of the committee report to the forthcoming special U.N. General Assembly session on disarmament, the Soviet representative Viktor Likachev reviewed the committee's activity. He also dwelt on important concrete aspects of disarmament which are now up before the committee.

The Soviet representative said that since the Disarmament Committee was set up in 1961 it has been the main multilateral international body for conducting negotiations on drafting agreements and treaties in the field of disarmament. It has actively participated in drawing up and concluding treaties and conventions banning nuclear tests in three environments, on nuclear non-proliferation, the outlawing of military and other hostile modification of the environment and others. Along with the Soviet-American agreements on preventing a nuclear war and on limiting strategic offensive arms and others, said the Soviet representative, they form the most essential part of international agreements in the disarmament field at present. The Soviet Union has initiated most of these.

At present the committee is actively working to prepare an international agreement to ban the development and production of new types and systems of mass destruction weapons. There are signs that the problem may be solved through the conclusion of a comprehensive agreement proposed by the Soviet Union that would rule out, in principle, the possibility of the emergence of new more sophisticated mass destruction weapons and the signing of separate agreements to ban concrete types of such weapons, for example, the radiological weapon.

In addition, said the Soviet representative, the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries--members of the Disarmament Committee, recently submitted to it a draft convention to ban the production, stockpiling, deployment and use of the nuclear neutron weapon. The importance of this initiative of the socialist countries was the keynote of the speech by the GDR representative H. Herder. This proposal, he said, aims, through joint effort and with due account of the interests of all the parties concerned, to prevent a new spiral of the arms race and to remove the barriers in the way of progress towards general and complete disarmament. The production and deployment of the neutron weapon in central Europe would impede measures of nuclear disarmament, stressed H. Herder. He expressed hope that the discussion of the draft convention would occupy a proper place in the committee's activity and that the questions connected with its signing would be objectively and constructively discussed by the members of the Disarmament Committee.

The session was also addressed by the representatives of the USA, Japan, Mexico and Sweden. The U.S. representative, Paul Warnke, expressed hope for an early signing of a Soviet-American strategic arms limitation agreement.

MOSCOW PRESS CONFERENCE DENOUNCES WEST'S CSCE STANCE

LD201445Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Mar 78 Morning Edition p 4 LD

[V. Matveyev article: "USSR Foreign Ministry Press Conference"]

[Text] Press conferences for journalists accredited in Moscow usually fill the hall. And so it was this time. This conference had a very topical theme. The world press is now writing a great deal about the results of the Belgrade meeting. But what delegation from a major Western country, which participated in the Belgrade meeting, considered it necessary on returning home to hold a press conference such as that given by the USSR Foreign Ministry's Press Department?

Once again our country is displaying a very serious attitude to everything connected with the cause of security and cooperation in Europe. And we do not avoid a principled discussion of the issues which the delegations of the United States and certain other NATO member countries in Belgrade were counting on making their propaganda hobbyhorse in their attacks on the socialist system and in their attempts to interfere in the internal affairs of the socialist countries. Nothing came or could come of these attempts! They were dealt a worthy rebuff.

Various questions were raised during today's press conference, including questions relating to the speculation floating about the pages of certain Western bourgois press organs alleging that the socialist countries' delegations in Belgrade displayed "reluctance" to discuss fulfillment of the provisions of the final act concerning the humanitarian sphere.

But the truth cannot be hidden. It consists in the fact that any objective examination of the real state of affairs in this sphere shows that the fundamental rights of the working person and the rights of the millions of masses are really guaranteed in practice only under the conditions of a system which does not know capitalist exploitation, racial and other oppression or the omnipotence of the purse.

But how do things stand in the United States, where there are high-ranking figures who consider it possible to "teach" other countries and peoples how they ought to live and run their affairs?

The journalists attending the press conference had an opportunity to familiarize themselves with some eloquent documentary materials addressed to the Soviet delegation in Belgrade from the United States including an appeal from B. Chavis, leader of the "Wilmington 10", who has been thrown in jail together with other civil rights fighters. He cites the names of more than 100 "prisoners of conscience" and racial oppression in the United States who are languishing in jails because they upheld their convictions. Another document of this sort is a report by the organization of American Indians. It contains a list of instances of the practice of genocide and of the current persecution of the surviving indigenous population of the country on the part of the authorities.

"It is impossible to struggle for peace while encroaching on the sovereign rights of other peoples. It is impossible to campaign for human rights and at the same time torpedo the principles of peaceful coexistence," Comrade L. I. Brezhnev pointed out from the platform of the World Peace Congress in Moscow in 1973.

This way of stating the question finds support among broad sections of the international public, which advocate both insuring man's inalienable rights and reliably strengthening the foundations of peace.

UK FOREIGN SECRETARY'S VIEW OF BELGRADE MEETING SCORED

LD161513Y Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Mar 78 p 3 LD

[TASS observer N. Grigoryev report: "Why Distort the Facts?"]

[Text] British Foreign Secretary D. Owen decided to make a statement on the results of the Belgrade meeting of the 35 countries which participated in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. Moreover, he presented a White Paper to Parliament on this matter.

Alas, it would be futile to look for even one original idea which exceeded the limits outlined by the U.S. President in a press interview the day before Owen spoke.

While acknowledging the "great importance and definite value" of the discussion which took place, the head of the foreign office then went on to deliberate on the theme of the "USSR's unwillingness for a broad and thorough implementation of the final act's provisions." And, of course, he did not forget to express his "disappointment" over the, as he asserted, lost opportunity to take a few steps forward in the development of all-European cooperation.

One might think that the British minister had never heard of the detailed program put forward in Belgrade by the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries of concrete proposals concerning questions of military detente in Europe and the expansion of all-European cooperation in environmental protection, transportation and energy, nor of the ideas regarding the development of cooperation in many fields and the strengthening of trust among states with differing systems.

One might think that he knows nothing about the attempts of the NATO countries, including his own, to use the Belgrade meeting not to reach an understanding on constructive steps in the spirit of Helsinki but for purely propaganda aims, nor about the fact that such attempts were certainly doomed to failure.

By making a fuss about the fabricated question of some "infringements of human rights" in the USSR and other socialist countries the Western powers were clearly seeking to draw public attention away from the real facts of the most flagrant violation of the elementary rights and freedoms of citizens in the capitalist world. Suffice it to recall what has been going on in Ulster for many years. Or the support given by the government of which Owen is a member to those people who are stubbornly trying to prevent the African majority of the Zimbabwe people from deciding the fate of their country.

No, Mr Minister, you will not convince anyone (except, perhaps for those who have always gambled on kindling fruitless arguments) that the socialist countries are "not prepared" to expand cooperation with the countries of the other social system. Meanwhile there is no abundance of this willingness to be seen in the West itself.

UK PRESS, GOVERNMENT STATEMENTS ON CSCE CRITICIZED

LD170038Y Moscow in English to Great Britain and Ireland 1900 GMT 16 Mar 78 LD

[Commentary by Igor Sedykh of ZA RUBEZHOM]

[Text] When you read editorial comment in the British press or statements by British Government officials on the results of the Belgrade meeting you cannot help wondering whether that meeting of 35 countries, the participants in the European conference, was not a total failure indeed.

Yet, to dispel your doubts all you have to do is to read the final document again. Because this will make it clear to you that things are far from being so bleak, and, incidentally, that document was also endorsed by the British representative, Lord Goronwy-Roberts.

It says in no uncertain terms that representatives from the participating countries have underlined the importance they attach to the relaxation of tension. This relaxation has been continuing since the final act was adopted despite the difficulties and obstacles in its way. The participating countries also emphasized that the effort to implement the provisions of the final act was of vital importance for advancing that process. And Lord Goronwy-Roberts, if we are to believe his statement made on his return to London, also wanted to advance the relaxation of tension. Well, it's a good intention all right. But, as the saying goes, the road to hell is paved with good intentions.

There is another document, the British Government's White Paper, which makes it clear how the foreign office visualizes this advancement. It turns out that the purpose of the meeting was to establish more normal and open relations between the governments and peoples in Eastern Europe. This statement is blunt enough and it is hardly surprising that all the attempts to attain such an objective ended in a flop. Small wonder. Suppose an official international conference were held to discuss relations between the government and people in Britain. It would be very interesting to see how the British people would react to such a thing. I'm afraid that my opposite numbers in the Tory press, complaining about the failure in Belgrade, would kick up a row about Soviet interference in the internal affairs of the United Kingdom. At present the Foreign Secretary Dr David Owen, expressing his disappointment over the results of the Belgrade meeting, remarked that not a single step had been taken beyond the framework of the final act; and in the foreign secretary's view, the steps that should have been taken beyond that framework belong in the field of human rights, which the Soviet Union allegedly violates.

However, Britain hardly has a moral right to lecture anyone on human rights. It seems to me that a country where politicians urge hounding the people of a different race, where the press is only willing to make such statements known to the public, a country practicing connivance with the fascist thugs of the National Front on the pretext of loyalty to democracy, a country operating its policy towards national minorities with the aid of the SAS [Special Air Service] units--such a country could have used the efforts spent on demagogy in Belgrade to solve her own burning problems, and with a greater benefit to millions of people.

As for the Belgrade meeting, it has carried out the task set by the heads of state and government of 35 countries, including Britain, in Helsinki in August 1975. The participants in the meeting exchanged views on carrying out the provisions of the final act. They also expressed the determination of their governments, as the final act unilaterally, bilaterally and multilaterally. Moreover, they decided to hold three meetings of experts to work out a commonly acceptable method of settling disputes, to expand ties in science and technology, and to broaden cooperation in the Mediterranean. The Belgrade meeting has confirmed that the relaxation of tension, the way most of the countries see it, is going on, and this is the main thing that counts.

OREKHOV EXAMINES SALT TALKS, HORN OF AFRICA, MIDEAST

LD211625Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Mar 78 p 4 LD

[Boris Orekhov review: "The International Week"]

[Text] The palette of the events whose mosaic formed the past 7 days of March is rich and diverse in colors.

The unparalleled experiment in space has been completed triumphantly. Our star pilot heroes Yuriy Romanenko and Georgiy Grechko completed the longest flight in the history of space travel and returned to their native earth from beyond the clouds.

The Soviet and Bulgarian peoples ceremonially commemorated the 30th anniversary of the signing of the treaty on friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance between the USSR and Bulgaria.

The past week was the interval between the first and second rounds of the parliamentary elections in France. Today is the second, decisive round.

A new government headed by Christian Democrat G. Andreotti was formed in Italy. The government crisis, which lasted about 2 months, is over.

The Question of Questions

In our times it is hard to find a person capable of disputing the beneficial influence exerted on the international climate by the policy of detente actively and purposefully implemented by the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. Its result is real hope for achieving agreements on the cardinal problems of the international situation. The changes for the better in the world, which the policy of detente has brought, are of a concrete and tangible nature.

What path will mankind follow in the future? That is the question of questions today. In essence two paths lie ahead. One leads to the growth of trust and cooperation, the other to the growth of mutual fear, suspicion and the stockpiling of weapons. There is no third way. It is precisely thanks to detente that the first path has become possible. Precisely this policy--the policy of detente--is now in the sights of the forces of militarism and reaction.

It is hard to count the interviews and statements of various quality in the pages of the Western bourgeois press. Not making things difficult for themselves by choosing arguments, transatlantic dabblers in politics, well known for their close ties with the military-industrial complex (and sometimes simply supported by it), are firing poisoned arrows at the policy of detente. The Soviet-American talks on strategic offensive arms limitation are being subjected to savage attacks.

"This treaty (the agreement of the second stage of the talks, or SALT II--B.O.), it seems to me, will not even preserve a situation of approximate equality with the Soviet Union in 1982 or 1985...."

"By 1985 the Soviet bomber potential will exceed our potential...."

"By 1985 the Soviet Union will have deployed more missile-carrying submarines than we will...."

These are all excerpts from an interview with Paul Nitze, former U.S. deputy defense secretary, in which he tries to depict SALT-II as something like a mousetrap for the American side.

J. Rhodes, House Republican minority leader, who is of like mind, is attempting to persuade Americans: "We should not conclude a SALT-II agreement, at least until we receive definite proof that the Soviet Union is fulfilling the conditions it agreed to within the framework of SALT-I."

Dabblers in politics like Nitze and Rhodes hyprocritically accuse the Soviet Union of building up armaments, trying to achieve strategic supremacy, and aggressive intentions. V.I. Lenin once wrote about this kind of politican. There are people, he indicated, "who shout about Red militarism; they are political swindlers who pretend to believe in this idiocy and cast similar accusations to right and left, making use of their advocate's skill to create false arguments and throw dust in the masses' eyes."

The question of the neutron bomb is a critical one on the agenda. More and more information is "filtering through" into the Western press to the effect that the United States is about to announce its decision to start production of neutron warheads for deployment in Europe. Even the approximate time when such a decision can be expected from J. Carter's administration--sometime between mid-April and mid-May--is cited. It should be recalled for the sake of clarity that in mid-April a session of the NATO Nuclear Planning Group is due to take place, while a month later asession of defense ministers of the North Atlantic bloc countries will be held.

Meanwhile the "pro-neutron" indoctrination of public opinion is in full swing in the West. Gen A. Haig, commander in chief of NATO armed forces, does not tire of his semantic invocations, constantly praising the neutron bomb as "clean." A new "argument" in defense of the neutron bomb has emerged from the depths of the Pentagon. It is now depicted as being more or less specifically created for fighting Soviet tanks. This is how it sounds: "The neutron bomb or enhanced radiation, reduced blast warhead...could be used especially effectively in a struggle against numerous Soviet tank columns, if, for instance, they advanced into West European territory."

This statement, made a few days ago, comes from U.S. Defense Secretary H. Brown. If Mr Brown will forgive us, the first thing that comes to mind on hearing this quotation is the hysterical cry "Russian tanks!" with which, it is said, former Pentagon chief J. Forrestal threw himself out of the window in 1949.

Some people in the United States are apparently seriously suggesting that neutron weapons will strengthen U.S. might and security. But this view will not stand critical examination. You only have to look back at the recent past to convince yourself that nobody has yet managed to retain a monopoly of possession of any means of mass destruction for a protracted time. That is why those in the United States on whom the final decision depends would do well to show political and practical wisdom and decide in favor of peace and detente by saying "no" to the neutron bomb.

And it would also be very timely to say "no" to the propaganda of distrust, suspicion and hostility toward the Soviet Union being spread across the ocean. Sometimes even the most responsible politicians are unable to withstand this, to put it mildly, "fashion."

How, for instance, are we to assess the speech heard the day before yesterday at Wake Forest University (North Carolina) from U.S. President J. Carter, in which he accused the Soviet Union of "showing an ominous (!) tendency to use its military might to interfere in local conflicts." Other dictums could also be cited providing nourishment for this kind of propaganda, which is only capable of complicating the resolution of the most important international problems and poisoning the world atmosphere.

The Lesson of the Ogaden

The Horn of Africa and the events taking place in that region are continuing to attract great attention among the world public.

The people's army of Ethiopia, with the support of the true friends of that country's working people, have, in the last few days, secured decisive victories in battles with Somali forces in the Ogaden. In the liberated cities and regions attempts are being made to help the population who suffered from the Somali invasion, and life is returning to normal.

Having suffered a military defeat, the Somali leadership announced the withdrawal of its troops from Ethiopian territory, which has already been completed. Everything indicates that peace in the Horn of Africa is closer today than yesterday. But it has not become established yet, and maximum efforts must be exerted to achieve this goal.

The Soviet Union's attitude to events in the Horn of Africa has long been well known. Our country did everything possible to prevent armed conflict between the two neighboring African states. Here the Soviet Union proceeded from the evident fact that such a conflict cannot meet the interests of either of these African countries.

Following a policy of peace and friendship between people, the Soviet Union has more than once publicly advocated the normalization of relations between Somalia and Ethiopia on the basis of neighborliness and peace. Our country has never pursued any selfish interests in the Horn of Africa. It is guided exclusively by the interests of peace and friendship between the countries of the region and the strengthening of progressive forces in both Somalia and Ethiopia. This is known to all unprejudiced people. However, certain Western figures and propaganda organs have been trying, assiduously if unsuccessfully, to attribute to our country just such a mythical interest in this region.

The path to peace and neighborliness in the Horn of Africa is quite feasible. The most important condition is the cessation of all military operations with the simultaneous complete withdrawal from Ethiopia of Somali troops and other formations fighting with them. The Somali leaders must, without any preliminary conditions, renounce their claims to part of Ethiopian and Kenyan territory and also Djibouti, pledge to observe strictly the principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries and renounce the use of force in resolving international disputes.

The Ethiopian leadership is displaying a responsible approach to the resolution of problems of vital importance for the Horn of Africa and believes that, although the present war was thrust upon them, there are no hostile feelings between the people of Ethiopia and Somalia. At the same time Ethiopia rejects any attempts by the U.S. Government and its allies to interfere in the solution of problems which are exclusively under Ethiopian jurisdiction, particularly attempts to link the unconditional withdrawal of Somali units to the presence in Ethiopia of military personnel invited by its government. It is obvious that this question can only be resolved by Ethiopia and the corresponding sides.

What happened in the Ogaden should serve as an object lesson for both the imperialists who prefer to have others pull their chestnuts out of the fire and for those who string along with them.

Real Aggression

One of the "hottest" spots on earth has erupted with ominous flashes of gunfire. Reports, each one more alarming than the next, are inundating the teletype machines from the Near East. Motorized units of the Israeli Army supported by artillery, tanks and aircraft have "ripped open" the whole length of the Lebanese-Israeli border, and Israeli aircraft have subjected Lebanese cities to barbaric raids.

The present invasion of Lebanon by Israeli forces is on the largest scale ever. I worked as a PRAVDA correspondent in Lebanon and was an eyewitness to a number of brutal sorties by the Israeli military against this country and against the Palestinian refugees there. But today we are not talking about a local military raid, as before. The world is witness to a broad military intervention and de facto occupation of a considerable part of the territory of an Arab state. As a formal reason for beginning the present aggression against a sovereign state, the preparations for which were carefully made a long time ago, the Israeli Government chose the well-known 11 March incident in Tel Aviv.

A situation fraught with the most serious consequences has been created in the Near East. If measures are not taken for the immediate cessation of the aggression and the speedy withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanese territory, the situation could become even more complicated and could lead to the involvement of other Arab states in the conflict. Of course, such a development of events cannot further the interests of establishing a firm and just peace in the Near East. In the opinion of many observers, with whom we must agree, in that event the Israeli intervention in Lebanon could not only set a Near East peace settlement back several years but could also exclude the possibility of such a settlement altogether.

The question arises: What encouraged Israel to take so dangerous a step, threatening the fate of peace in the Near East?

We recall the Soviet-American joint statement on the Near East published last October. In it both sides confirmed that the only right and effective way to insure the cardinal resolution of the Near East problem is the Geneva peace conference. As is now becoming clear, having signed this important statement, the United States in fact continued to favor solving the problem through separate talks with the aim of splitting the Arab world. All their acts since then show that Israel was and remains the United States' main ally in the Near East, and that no concessions can be expected from it--as was eloquently demonstrated by the lamentable results of the Egyptian president's capitulationist policy. Cairo's willingness to make many concessions to Israel, even territorial concessions, not only failed to coax Tel Aviv but, on the contrary, hardened its position--something evidenced by the present aggression against Lebanon.

From earliest times, the desire to deal with its enemies one at a time has been the basis of Israel's policy. In implementing this policy it has been supported by the United States.

For a long time Israel has stubbornly opposed convening the Geneva peace conference. It is not difficult to understand the reason for this obstinacy: It is easier for Tel Aviv to satisfy its maximalist, predatory demands through separate deals, than in Geneva, where Israel would be opposed by the united Arab front, supported by the conference cochairman, the Soviet Union.

The situation created in the Near East as a result of the Egyptian-Israeli separate line, supported by the United States, confirms once again that only a decisive rejection of separate conspiracies and the evasion of the Geneva mechanism, only the Geneva conference can lead to a just settlement and the establishment of firm and lasting peace in this region.

The events and processes we have touched upon today show, with infinite clarity, the complexity of the modern world and the efforts that are needed to preserve peace. The Soviet people are proud that the CPSU and Soviet Government are tirelessly working for peace and the people's security.

PROPOSED NATO MILITARY PREPARATIONS FRUSTRATE DETENTE

LD211349Y Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Mar 78 p 3 LD

[From the International Military-Political Review by Col M. Ponomarev and V. Vinogradov: "NATO: A New Stage of Militarist Preparations"]

[Text] U.S. Government spokesmen have officially announced that the next NATO Council session will take place in Washington, 31 May. The heads of state and government of the member countries of this imperialist military bloc will participate in its work. The session will discuss short and long-term measures for the further consolidation of the Atlantic armed forces, for intensifying their combat strength and for raising their combat readiness, measures for improving weapons policy and military equipment purchases, and East-West relations.

About 2 and 1/2 months still remain before the start of the session. But preparations for it are already in full swing and are being conducted in various directions. The essence of the preparation is the further submission of the European NATO countries to the influence of the U.S. ruling circles, and a new stage of increased military spending, expanding the arms race and building up militarist preparations.

Gen A. Haig, supreme commander of NATO allied forces in Europe, recently gave a detailed report to the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee about specific steps in these fields. According to his report, more than 900 top-priority measures aimed at increasing the bloc's military potential are scheduled for NATO and are, in part, already being implemented. In particular, to enhance the combat readiness of the troops, the location of several formations and units has been changed and the logistical support system has been improved. Strategic concepts have been coordinated among the allies. The air forces of a number of NATO countries have been integrated. Particularly important steps have been taken for insuring the rapid buildup of the bloc's armed forces in Europe "in the event of a crisis." In the words of General Haig, a number of countries have placed several additional rapidly deployable ground and air force units at the disposal of the bloc's command for this purpose. Preparations for the arrival of these forces in the theater of operations and for their subsequent transfer to the combat zone have been improved, and stocks for supplying them have been increased. Moreover, considerable improvements have been made to the system of mobilizing and deploying U.S. based reinforcements.

General Haig stressed that 150 recommendations have been made for modernizing the bloc's nonnuclear armed forces in Europe. Taken in aggregate, they represent a short-term program for strengthening NATO's military potential. At the same time, work is being concluded on 10 long-term plans. These plans will soon be submitted for the examination of the North Atlantic bloc's Military Planning Committee.

The implementation of such a broad program of militarist preparations requires a considerable increase in military spending. The United States--the leading NATO power--retains pride of place in this respect. As is known, U.S. Senate committees have proposed that more than $130 billion be allocated to the Pentagon for fiscal 1979, which considerably exceeds not only the appropriations for the current year but also what the administration requested. [paragraph continues]

Under pressure from the United States, the West European members are also increasing their military spending: Britain is increasing its military spending to almost 7 billion pounds sterling, the FRG--to DM54 billion and Italy--to more than 4.3 trillion lire. The military budgets of other states of the North Atlantic bloc, including Belgium, Norway and Canada, are also increasing.

On the whole, the NATO countries are increasing their appropriations for military purposes by at least 3 percent in real terms, that is, taking into account the devaluation of currencies caused by inflation. Reporting this, the U.S. newspaper CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR noted with satisfaction: "The NATO allies are hoping to submit good reports to each other at their summit meeting in Washington at the end of May."

The considerable new increase in the NATO countries' military budget is boosting the tempo of the arms race even further. The New York TIMES reported that to further strengthen its armed forces, the United States intends to put the XM-1 tank into production. The Pentagon plans to purchase more than 3,300 of these tanks worth a total of $4.7 billion. Special attention is being paid to equipping the armed forces of the United States and other NATO countries with electronic intelligence facilities, new types of missiles and other highly automated weapons, and also to the use of laser guidance in missiles and artillery systems.

The attention which the United States is paying to the intensification of NATO's military potential and to the enhancement of the Atlantic armed forces' combat readiness is also indicated by press reports of the reorganization of U.S. ground and air forces in Western Europe over the next 5 years. There are various speculations about this. But they amount to one thing--the combat strength of the troops of the United States and the other NATO members is to be further increased and the foundations of the relaxation of international tension are to be undermined.

The practical actions of the NATO leaders in preparation for the spring session of the bloc's council show, once again, most obviously that forces are active in the world which are attempting to frustrate the process of detente, are whipping up the arms race, creating new forms of lethal weapons and strengthening the aggressive blocs.

It is precisely these forces that intend to see to it that the forthcoming NATO Council session will open a new stage in the buildup of the North Atlantic bloc's militarist preparations.

EDITORIAL WARNS OF CONSEQUENCES OF NEUTRON BOMB PLANS

LD221127Y Moscow NOVOYE VREMYA in Russian No 12, 17 Mar 78 p 1 LD

[Editorial: "Still Not Too Late"]

[Text] The neutron bomb has not yet been put into production. It does not yet feature in NATO arsenals in Western Europe. But its invisible presence is felt in parliament halls, in government cabinets and at public forums.

Initially the Pentagon was presumptuously reckoning on quickly persuading Western Europe to acquire the newfangled "neutron umbrella" and was not particularly bothered about seeking arguments: Take it, and that is the end of it. On encountering stubborn resistance, they switched to a concentrated siege and to importunate and refined publicity. Neutron weapons, they said, will still further increase "the effectiveness of the Western deterrent doctrine," to which Western Europe is obliged for its "freedom." There is no need, they said, to renounce "a technologically superior weapon just because the East does not like it."

Spurious, placatory arguments are combined with fraudulent maneuvers aimed at breaking the resistance of the plans to put neutron weapons into production and deploy them on European soil and at damping down the flame of public indignation. One of these recent subterfuges was exposed in the TASS statement published on 11 March. Its essence is as follows: To announce the start of the production of neutron weapons in the United States but to promise to postpone their deployment in Western Europe for a while, at the same time making the final solution of the question an object of haggling with the Soviet Union and linking the problem, as has recently become fashionable in Washington, with others unrelated to the matter.

By all accounts the White House intends to accelerate the adoption of a decision on neutron weapons. Reports have appeared that people across the ocean do not intend to wait for the high level NATO Council session in Washington at the end of May, where they would again have to try to prevail upon their partners, or for the special UN General Assembly session on disarmament to open in New York, also in May, which could become a further obstacle to those who are preparing a "green light" for the neutron weapons. Attempts are also being made to silence their opponents in NATO countries.

The U.S. magazine NEWSWEEK has written that by their resistance the small NATO countries--Denmark, Norway, the Netherlands, Iceland--(unlike the other, large countries), have already delayed the implementation of plans to produce the new kind of lethal weapons and to deploy them in Western Europe. The Pentagon and NATO's Brussels headquarters hastened to influence the mavericks through their own channels. Netherlands Defense Minister R. Kruisinga has already been forced to resign. Some of those who originally challenged the transatlantic monster have also faltered. Certain West European figures, who are very sensitive to everything that concerns Washington's expansionist economic maneuvers in Western Europe, display a timidness that is hard to explain when the talks turn to the question of deployment of the Pentagon's neutron bomb in densely populated Western Europe. No, these figures do not ask for these weapons, which is what Washington insists on, but they do make it understood that, as disciplined NATO members, they will not refuse to accept them.

The matter is evidently coming to a head. At this time the Soviet Union once against suggests considering all the consequences of choosing in favor of the neutron weapons, if this is what they intend doing. A new spiral in the arms race will become inevitable. The prospects of the talks on disarmament problems will be overshadowed. The detente process and East-West relations will be complicated.

The Soviet Union proposed an honorable way out of the unpleasant situation in which these countries and their people have found themselves, thanks to the Pentagon--a way out which will not damage anyone's prestige. The international knot which has been tied around the neutron bomb can be cut in the only possible and sensible way: by agreeing on the mutual renunciation of production of these weapons. The Soviet Government is prepared, at any time, to begin talks and to conclude an international agreement. The USSR and seven other socialist states have submitted to the Disarmament Committee a draft convention on the prohibition of neutron weapons.

Commonsense must prevail. It is still not too late to safeguard the world against the new danger.

UNCTAD DISCUSSES THIRD WORLD'S FOREIGN DEBTS

LD1715llY Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 14 Mar 78 p 3 LD

[V. Gordeyev article: "On the Basis of Equality"]

[Text] A special session at ministerial level of UNCTAD (the UN Conference on Trade and Development) has taken place in Geneva. This is the first time it has been held at such a high level. [paragraph continues]

This is important because of the fact that a most acute question of intenational life was on its agenda: the foreign debts of the developing countries and ways of eliminating them.

The urgent need to discuss this problem at an international forum was brought about by the increasing gulf in living standards between developed capitalist states and the developing countries, which are economically dependent on them. The unequal exchange between them (the rise in prices for the industrial products of industrialized states and the fall in prices for raw material imported from developing countries) and the monopolies' pillaging of the natural wealth of Asia, Africa and Latin America have been highly detrimental to the developing countries.

Their foreign debts continue to grow. L. Corea, UNCTAD secretary general, reported at the session that by the end of last year they had reached about $250 billion. This situation produced a significant deficit in their balance of payments and is hindering economic development. The young national states are more and more firmly demanding compensation for the economic damage caused by the policy of colonialism and neocolonialism.

A clear position on this question is occupied by the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. In a document presented to the United Nations in connection with the creation of a UN General Assembly committee on economic questions, they state the need to establish a new international economic order based on equality and mutual advantage. At the same time the document stresses that the discussion of the problems connected with this cannot be carried out in isolation from such important factors in world development as the relaxation of international tension and disarmament.

USSR JOINS INTERNATIONAL HIGH ENERGY PHYSICS EXPERIMENT

LD201908Y Moscow TASS in English 1857 GMT 20 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 20, TASS - An experiment in high energy physics will be another example of mutually beneficial cooperation among scientists of different countries. It will involve the scientists from the Joint Nuclear Research Institute in Dubna near Moscow, the European Nuclear Research Centre in Geneva (CERN), the Munich University Physics Institute (FRG) and the Nuclear Research Centre in Sacle (France), TASS correspondent was told by Academician Nikolay Bogolyubov, director of the Joint Nuclear Research Institute.

This year, he said, will see the assembly and launching of an installation which would help continue research into the structure of protons and neutrons. The experiment will test the hypothesis that they are composed of still smaller particles called quarks.

Academician Bogolyubov, director of the International Scientific Centre in Dubna, where scientists from eleven socialist countries work, pointed out that the Dubna physicists are making a tangible contribution to the international experiment. The exclusively peaceful character of the high energy physics research helps implement the policy of peace and international cooperation, said the scientists.

U.S., BRITISH PRESS VIEW USSR REACTION TO CARTER SPEECH

LD220955Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Mar 78 p 3 LD

[Text] Washington, 19 March TASS--The American press is devoting attention to the Soviet commentary "In Connection With J. Carter's Speech" published in connection with the U.S. President's 17 March speech at Wake Forest University.

The New York DAILY NEWS quotes J. Carter as saying that his speech was not a threat to the Soviet Union but a "statement of the facts." Carter declined to comment on the military sections of his speech although, the paper notes, this pronouncement was made after a 5-hour inspection of "the United States' biggest and most powerful" nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, the Eisenhower. People in the United States make no secret of the fact that American military circles intend to use this presidential visit to enlist his support for plans to expand the program for the construction of other nuclear-powered aircraft carriers like the Eisenhower.

The New York TIMES notes the rapid Soviet reaction to J. Carter's speech. The paper sees it as evidence that the Soviet Union believes that Carter is attempting to sidestep the solution of a number of important joint problems.

The Washington POST writes that the Soviet Union has accused J. Carter of distorting the aims of Soviet foreign policy in the Near East and the Horn of Africa and seeking a pretext for building up new U.S. armaments.

London, 19 March--THE DAILY TELEGRAPH states that the U.S. President's speech and the Soviet reply reflect the tension which is emerging in relations between the Soviet Union and the United States over foreign policy issues in Africa and the Near East, over problems of strategic offensive arms limitation and also over the issue which the paper calls "human rights, which reached its apogee at the Belgrade meeting,"--which means U.S. attempts to interfere in the internal affairs of the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries.

CARTER, BEGIN COMMENCE TALKS ON PEACE, AID, LEBANON

Whitewash of Aggression

LD212207Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2030 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Talks between U.S. President Carter and Israeli Prime Minister Begin started in Washington today. Our correspondent Yuriy Soltan reports: Even before the talks started, Israel attained three important assurances from Washington: The United States considers its relations with Israel particularly important and friendly; the United States will do everything necessary to insure the highest possible degree of military security for Israel; the United States will not exert any pressure on Israel to force it to implement the UN Security Council's resolution on the immediate withdrawal of its troops from Lebanese territory.

In exchange, the United States would like Israel to refrain as much as possible from impeding U.S. Near East policy, aimed at flirting with the Arab countries and splitting the united Arab front. Washington continues to nurture hopes for the conclusion of a separate peace between Israel and Egypt, although it realizes that the chances of pulling off such plans have become even more remote after Israel's aggression in Lebanon, in the course of which, incidentally, the most modern American aircraft and other weapons supplied by the United States for Israel's "self-defense" were used against the Lebanese population. The White House talks will, therefore, deal mainly with the question of how to whitewash the aggressor's actions while at least partially satisfying the Arab countries.

The local press reports that the administration is going to ask Israel to wave its statement opposing the U.S. intention to sell Egypt a symbolic consignment of arms. Washington has been describing this decision as purely "political", promising in exchange to increase its military assistance to Tel Aviv by $1.5 billion a year.

There is now greater skepticism here regarding Washington's policy of separate deals in the Near East. Those who are truly anxious to bring about a peaceful settlement in that area increasingly realize that such a settlement must be all-embracing, and that the road to peace in the Near East leads through the Geneva conference with the participation of all the sides concerned, including the PLO.

UN Resolution Ignored

LD211644Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Talks began today at the White House between U.S. President Carter and Israeli Prime Minister Begin. The United States, which, in accordance with the Security Council resolution, is trying to bring an end to Israel's military action in Lebanon and the prompt withdrawal of Israeli troops from that country, is doing practically nothing to achieve this. Its limits itself merely to making wordy appeals, although it has the real means to exert effective pressure on Israel, which is fully dependent on the United States for both arms supplies and economic aid.

At the same time Begin, aware of his powerful support from the Zionist lobby in the United States, has brought to Washington a plan to continue Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon indefinitely. As the American press reports, he is confident that he will be successful in getting the consent of the U.S. Government to this plan. Begin also intends to discuss the question of further increasing American military supplies to Israel.

Separate Talks Top Agenda

LD211942Y Moscow TASS in English 1925 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Washington, March 21 TASS--Talks have opened in the White House between U.S. President J. Carter and Israeli Prime Minister Begin, who arrived for an official three-day visit here. As the press reports, the main item on the agenda of the talks is coordination of U.S.-Israeli efforts for the resumption of the separate dialogue between Tel Aviv and Cairo. The sides will also discuss the situation in Lebanon in the light of invasion of that country by the Israeli Armed Forces. In the opinion of observers, considerable attention in the course of the talks will be devoted to a further increase of U.S. military aid to Tel Aviv. The newspaper CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR writes that Israel has requested Washington for a 50 per cent increase in arms supplies in the course of ten years. At present, the USA is already supplying Tel Aviv extremists with modern weapons worth one billion dollars a year.

Demonstrators March

LD212128Y Moscow TASS in English 2104 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Washington, March 21 TASS--A mass demonstration was held in the American capital today to protest the visit to the USA by the Israeli prime minister, Begin. The protesters marched through the central streets towards the White House where talks between President Carter and Begin have started. They carried the slogans "stop Zionist aggression in Lebanon," "U.S. Congress: end arms supplies to Israel."

The Washington authorities moved in reinforced mounted police units towards the White House "to preserve order."

IRONY OF U.S. ARMS FOR ISRAEL, BLANKETS FOR LEBANON NOTED

LD211832Y Moscow TASS in English 1814 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD

["Bombs and Blankets for the Middle East"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, March 21, TASS--TASS observer Anatoliy Krasikov writes: The United States has decided to "show much favour" to the refugees, who fled their homes in the areas of Lebanon which became target of fresh Israeli aggression. This became known from the statement made at a press conference in Washington by representative of the U.S. State Department Trattner. The U.S. Defense Department, he said, has ordered in particular the shipment of a big consignment of tents and blankets to Lebanon.

The official spokesman for the U.S. authorities "forgot" to mention the fact that the same U.S. Defence Department does not cease for a single day its supplies to Israel of material, arms and other equipment, by means of which the aggressors are turning the inhabitants of the neighbour Arab countries into orphans, cripples and homeless people. The brutal raids against the Lebanese towns and villages are made in the modern U.S. F-15 fighter planes, which, as the American press said itself, are not supplied by the USA even to its NATO allies.

Thus, bombs and aircraft are designed for one side, and blankets and tents for the other. One side receives concrete tangible support for continuing the policy of capturing the lands of other countries and physical extermination of their population, while the other side is promised that everything "will be settled" and "everything will be ok", receives wishes of good time and happy dreams.

No, gentlemen, the peoples of the Middle East want peace and happiness not in their dreams but in reality, but it is necessary to give up the encouragement of the aggressor and the attempts to make those who are resisting the aggression to surrender one by one, so that these wishes come true.

It is necessary, not by words of mouth, but in action to contribute to the attainment of a just and comprehensive settlement of the Middle East problem. The road to it as is known, passes through the resumption of the Geneva peace conference with the participation of representatives of all sides involved in the conflict, including the Palestinian people.

SENATOR ABOUREZK ASKS CARTER TO CUT AID TO ISRAEL

LD211226Y Moscow TASS in English 1106 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Washington, March 21, TASS--American Senator James Abourezk has sent a letter to President James Carter, urging him to cut military aid to Israel.

Pointing to the scope and brutality of Israel's aggression in south Lebanon, the Senator emphasized that the most up-to-date American arms, including the latest fighter-bombers F-15 are used in the Israeli action. The Senator laid bare Washingtons' hypocrisy in the matter of arms deliveries to Tel Aviv which, officials say, it needs allegedly exclusively in "self-defence" purposes. The Senator stresses in the letter that during Israel's previous military ventures the Government of the United Staes preferred to shut its eyes to such facts.

U.S. PROPAGANDA RESORTS TO ARTICLE BY NEUTRON BOMB CREATOR

LD211302Y Moscow TASS in English 1154 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 21, TASS--Political commentator Askold Biryukov writes: The stronger becomes the growing movement in the United States, Europe and the whole world, demanding a ban on neutron bomb production, the more difficult it becomes to apologists of this weapon of mass destruction of people. To advertize its "effectiveness" and to prove its "need" for the countries, members of the NATO military bloc, they resort to all sorts of services.

A few days ago the New York TIMES put its pages at the disposal of certain Samuel Cohen, whose study, the newspaper asserts, led to the development of the neutron weapon. In an article, printed in the magazine REVIEW, issued by the U.S. strategic institute, the same Smauel Cohen voiced, all in all, already known arguments of supporters of the neutron bomb in favour of its use. In his article, the New York TIMES points out, he "defends the controversial new weapon as a major step toward a more credible defense position for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization". This weapon, he says, is less "dirty" than conventional nuclear weapons and "more humane" and, certainly, more "effective". One of the fathers of the neutron bomb is lavishing praise on his offspring, and this is easily understood. Amazing is something else: His views are popularized by an American reputable newspaper, which it would seem, should realize what the neutron "jinn", seeking to get out of the American bottle by hook or by crook, has in store for mankind.

The New York TIMES did not confine itself to reprinting the article from the magazine REVIEW. Mr. Cohen was interviewed by telephone, and taking advantage of the occasion, he set about "developing" his ideas. "Beginning with the bow and arrow", this politicizing scientist teaches the "unenlightened" Americans, "battlefield weapons have always emphasised effects against enemy personnel." Criticism of the neutron weapon in the West, he asserts, is far too "emotional". Besides, it is "quite possible" that the Soviet Union has embarked on an enhanced radiation warhead programme of its own. He thus draws the conclusion that the Americans and Europeans have nothing to worry about. The neutron bomb supports them, just as the rope supports a man who committed suicide by hanging himself, we would like to add.

Western propaganda has to resort to the services of people of the Samuel Cohen type because, evidently, it is in a tight spot. There are not so many supporters of the new dangerous type of weapons of mass annihilation and someone needs them badly for an extensive campaign of psychologically conditioning public opinion with the object of making it accept the appearance of this weapon in the arsenals of the United States and other NATO member-countries.

Making its column space available to such persons, the New York TIMES can expect gratitude from the ringleaders of the military-industrial complex of the United States, who are preparing for another spiral in the arms race. But will they earn the gratitude of those millions of people (including Americans) who will be destined to experience the entire "humanity" of the neutron bomb for themselves?

AMERICAN POLICY IN AFRICA BASED ON 'DIVIDE AND RULE'

LD2111109Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Mar 78 Morning Edition p 3 LD

[Political observer V. Kudryavtsev article: "Gamble on Splitting"]

[Text] The British colonialists' old motto of "divide and rule" has gotten its second wind, this time from the United States. Whereas British imperialism employed it chiefly within its empire, the U.S. ruling circles are seeking to divide and rule on a global scale and for neocolonialist purposes. [paragraph continues]

Following the failure of the Vietnamese adventure, U.S. imperialist circles are apprehensive about the consequences, for both their domestic and foreign policy, of sending their own armed forces overseas and of using them directly to extend their influence. Relying on numerous military bases and, as General Haig, supreme commander in chief of NATO allied armed forces in Europe, has defined them, on "regional military potentials" in its hegemonist plans, the United States gambles chiefly on splitting the anti-imperialist and anticolonialist fronts of the liberated people of Asia and Africa to weaken their struggle for stronger national independence and socioeconomic liberation.

In this perfidious policy the United States pins great hopes on nationalism in African countries. As U.S. Secretary of State C. Vance has declared, U.S. policy "must recognize and encourage African nationalism." It is understandable that the U.S. ruling circles are attracted above all to its chauvinist potential, which could be used to set one African state against another and to push them into a forcible revision of borders, territorial claims and, in short, everything that could sow discord between African countries and distract them from the chief task--the struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism and racism. Here the United States would like to act, not with its own hands, but with those of internal African reaction--those forces which are waging a subversive struggle against progressive regimes.

The region where the Near East meets Africa is most characteristic of the splittist actions of U.S. diplomacy. The United States' actions here are deliberately being closely coordinated. The capitulatory policy of Egyptian President A. as-Sadat has harmed the pan-Arab struggle to eliminate the consequences of Israeli aggression and for a just settlement based on the withdrawal of all Israeli Armed Forces from the occupied Arab territories and the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people including their right to set up an independent state and return to their native lands.

The effrontery of the Israeli aggressors has increased considerably as a result of the Egyptian leaders' betrayal of the pan-Arab cause, as graphically demonstrated by the recent bloody events in southern Lebanon. Imperialist ruling circles were able to direct Egypt's military potential toward the struggle against progressive countries of the African Continent. Egypt sent pilots to quell the uprising in Shaba Province (Zaire), carried out armed sabotage against Libya and is assisting the Somali chauvinists and showing readiness to give active support to the United States' splittist actions on the African Continent. It is generally known that Cairo is asking the United States to supply it with arms, not for the struggle against the Israeli aggressors, but to fulfill its new functions as the U.S. policeman in Africa and the Near East.

The complex of U.S. diversionary actions against the anti-imperialist unity of African and Near Eastern countries is revealed in the U.S. position on the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea. If it were not for U.S. incitement and the veiled promises to give arms aid, it is possible that Somali chauvinist circles would not have dared to undertake such a hopeless adventure as the one in which they involved the country. Although the U.S. ruling circles officially declared that they did not intend to supply Somalia with arms while Somali troops were on Ethiopian territory, they provoked the Somali-Ethiopian conflict and supplied Somalia with arms through "strawmen"--Saudi Arabia, Iran, Egypt and Sudan. While encouraging Somalia to undertake the adventure in the Ogaden, at the same time the United States tried to create the impression that it had as great an interest as anyone in a peaceful settlement in the Horn of Africa.

But the United States' true stance in this region was determined by its desire to establish its supremacy over the entire Red Sea basin. For this it sought to use the hands of the Somalis, internal reaction and separatists to press Ethiopia back from the Red Sea coast and to drain the Ethiopian revolution of its blood. The events in the Horn of Africa have diverted the Arab countries from their chief enemy--the Israeli Zionists--and created glowing prospects for the advance of U.S. influence in the south and in the countries of east Africa, which are of extreme interest to the United States in connection with its plans in the Indian Ocean.

The United States tried to implement its subversive plans in the Red Sea region under the chauvinist slogan of turning this sea into an "Arab lake." Thus it also gambled on national and religious dissension between the Arab people and the people of Ethiopia.

The basis of the African people's anti-imperialist unity is their mutual desire to purge the continent finally and completely of the remnants of colonial regimes and of the shame of racism and apartheid in the south of Africa. This is recorded in the OAU Charter adopted in 1963. At that time the African countries belonging to the OAU agreed not to revise the borders established by the colonialists.

As is known, the colonialists disregarded ethnic, economic and other features of African countries in establishing these borders, which has aroused the displeasure of present states. But if these borders were revised today, Africa would fall victim to imperialist intrigues aimed at splitting it, and neocolonialism would only rejoice at the development of such a situation. The example of the bloody events in the Horn of Africa has already shown where attempts to revise borders can lead. It is precisely this weak spot in African reality that the U.S. imperialists are exploiting, by encouraging chauvinist aspirations in every possible way. Since the OAU is the vector of unity, the United States is trying its utmost to shake this organization both from within and from without.

The West now cherishes plans to set up an "Afro-European solidarity pact" with a patently military bias. African countries such as Senegal, the Ivory Coast and Gabon are to be the mainstay, with the involvement of certain other countries, primarily in west Africa. Plans call for the use of the west African countries' economic ties with the Common Market. As Western newspapers and radio have reported, there are already plans to construct an "inter-African airbase" at Bouake (Ivory Coast). It is characteristic that the countries designated as members of this pact took a special stand in the OAU with regard to Angola. It is clear that the projected pact is aimed, above all, at undermining pan-African, anti-imperialist unity.

U.S. diplomacy is carrying out energetic activity, including financial and economic measures, to wrest Nigeria--the largest African state--away from the rest of Africa. As is known, U.S. President J. Carter is planning a visit there, which will be the first visit by a U.S. President to Africa in the history of U.S.-African relations.

It is not hard to trace the U.S. policy aimed at splitting African unity in southern Africa. All the variants of the Anglo-U.S. plans for Rhodesia bear the traces of obvious attempts to split the national liberation movement of the Zimbabwe people.

The U.S. gamble on dissension in the ranks of Africa's anti-imperialist fighters is countered by the scope of the struggle of the people of Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa against racism and apartheid, which is receiving increasingly broad support from all the world's progressive forces. The "frontline states"--Tanzania, Mozambique, Zambia, Botswana and Angola, which are struggling against criminal racism--have created a united front. The failure of the chauvinist adventure in the Horn of Africa will serve as a new lesson to the U.S. imperialists, who, as history shows, adopt a precipitate approach to its severe verdicts.

In their greetings to the participants in the 14th session of the assembly of OAU heads of state and government in July 1977, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and the USSR Council of Ministers drew the attention of the African people to the fact that the forces of imperialism are "trying to destabilize the situation on the African Continent, to embroil certain states, to kindle and encourage dissension and to provoke quarrels over problems inherited from colonial times. Since the imperialists, with the approval of China's present rulers, are concealing some of their actions in Africa behind statements on the need to avert the "communist threat," the greetings message firmly stated: "It is well known that the Soviet Union opposes all interference in the internal affairs of African countries. We seek no advantages or privileges for ourselves in Africa. Our policy on the African Continent is aimed at building peaceful, friendly relations with all people and helping them to travel successfully their chosen path of independence and progress."

ABLAMOV CRITICIZES U.S.-SPONSORED HUMAN RIGHTS SYMPOSIUM

LD211758Y Moscow TASS in English 1748 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 21, TASS--TASS commentator Ivan Ablamov writes: A two-day "symposium on human rights" was held in Washington. According to press reports, it discussed "violations of human rights in Warsaw treaty countries". How "serious" was the discussion at this gathering can be seen if only from the fact that persons from among the emigree scum and other shady characters who do not represent anyone were the main participants in the discussion. There would be no need to even mention this "symposium" if it were not for the fact that it was sponsored by the State Department of the United States and its high-placed officials were among the speakers.

The role that was assigned to the State Department in this provocation cannot but cause justifiable perplexity for this is an open attempt at interfering in internal affairs of other countries, while the task of diplomats is quite the opposite: to promote improvement of relations with other states on the basis of equality and non-interference in each other's affairs.

As to the claims of the masterminds of this provocation to the role of "judge", they should tackle not imaginary violations, but real and glaring violations of human rights in their own country. It is well known that racial discrimination is flourishing in the United States, that millions of blacks, Indians, Puerto Ricans, Americans of the Mexican descent are oppressed on the basis of nationality, and people fighting for civil rights are subjected to persecution. This is known, specifically, by such disgraceful facts as prosecution of the Wilmington ten, the death sentence of civil rights fighter John Harris and cruel reprisals against many other civil rights fighters.

According to the data of American trade unions, ten million people in the United States are deprived of one of the fundamental human rights, the right to work. American women have no equal rights with men. In these conditions, the hullabaloo around the problem of "human rights" in socialist countries is nothing else but an attempt to distract the attention of the world public from the ugliest aspects of U.S. reality.

On the other hand, this is an attempt to cast aspersion on the policy of the USSR and other socialist countries, to add fuel to the fire of a campaign of slander that is being fanned up in the West and is aimed both against these countries and against the cause of detente and international cooperation as a whole.

USSR SENDS MESSAGE TO PRC NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS

LD201416Y Moscow TASS in English 1345 GMT 20 Mar 78 LD

["On Soviet-Chinese Relations"--TASS headline; Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1600 GMT on 20 March carries an identical version of the following message]

[Text] Moscow, March 20, TASS--Conducting the Leninist peaceful policy, the Soviet Government constantly showed and shows a principled approach to the question of relations between the USSR and China, the approach prompted by sincere striving for their settlement.

As is known, the principles on whose basis Soviet-Chinese relations could be normalized and improved to the benefit of vital interests of the peoples of both countries, of the cause of peace and socialism were confirmed by the 24th and 25th CPSU congresses. These principles were consistently confirmed by the Soviet Union's concrete and realistic initiatives. They include a number of constructive proposals, among them a proposal on conclusion of a treaty on non-use of force (1971), a treaty on non-aggression (1973), on the holding of a summit meeting of representatives of both countries, on the resumption of economic and cultural cooperation, scientific and technical relations, cooperation in the sphere of health services, along the lines of public organizations, etc.

These initiatives following the sole purpose of bringing relations between the USSR and the PRC back to the road of goodneighbourliness were either rejected by the Chinese side or left unanswered. Nevertheless, the USSR, motivated by the historic responsibility for consolidation of world peace and concern for normalizing of Soviet-Chinese relations decided to take a new step of good will.

On February 24, 1978, on the eve of a session of the National People's Congress, the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet sent a message to its Standing Committee.

The message says that Soviet-Chinese relations assumed over the recent years a nature that cannot but cause serious concern. The existing state of affairs leads to the creation of the atmosphere of mutual distrust, to the heightening of tensions in interstate relations. The vital interests of the Soviet and Chinese peoples require adoption of definite practical measures aimed at normalizing Soviet-Chinese relations in accordance with the aspirations and hopes of the peoples of the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China.

The Soviet Government repeatedly advanced concrete proposals aimed at bringing the relations between the USSR and the PRC back to the road of goodneighborliness, and expressed the USSR's readiness to normalize relations with China on the principles of peaceful coexistence. The Government of the People's Republic of China for its part had officially stated that the PRC could build relations with the USSR on the principles of peaceful coexistence. The Soviet people sincerely wishes to see China a friendly prosperous power.

The Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, expressing the will and aspirations of the Soviet people, is once again stating its readiness to put an end to the present abnormal situation in the relations between the USSR and the PRC and to stop the dangerous process of further aggravation of relations which may lead to serious negative consequences for our countries and peoples, for the destinies of peace in the Far East, in Asia and throughout the world.

In order to materialize the desire expressed by the two sides to base their relations on the principles of peaceful coexistence and embody it in a tangible international act, the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet is suggesting that our countries come forward with a joint statement on the principles of mutual relations between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the People's Republic of China. It is believed in the Soviet Union that a joint statement that the sides will build their relations on the basis of peaceful coexistence, firmly adhering to the principles of equality, non-interference in the internal affairs of each other and non-use of force could advance the cause of normalization of our relations.

We suggest that if the very idea of making such a statement is acceptable for the Chinese side, a meeting of representatives of both sides should be held at a sufficiently high level to agree on a mutually acceptable text of the statement in the shortest possible time.

The Soviet Union is prepared to receive representatives of the People's Republic of China, the message says. If the Chinese side deems it expedient that Soviet representatives should arrive for the aforementioned purpose in Peking, we agree to this. On our part, we are prepared to consider proposals of the PRC aimed at normalization of Soviet-Chinese relations.

This important document clearly expresses the Soviet Union's striving for normalization of relations with China on the principles of peaceful coexistence, with consideration for mutual interests and without any preliminary conditions.

But the PRC leadership, this time too, assumed a negative stand. On March 9, 1978, it repeated unacceptable preliminary conditions it had advanced before. The meaning of these preliminary conditions is to sidestep discussion of the essence of the questions of improvements of interstate relations between the two countries and to continue its unfriendly course with regard to the Soviet Union.

The Soviet circles expressed the hope that the Chinese leadership will positively respond to the message of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet so as to start a constructive dialogue for the purpose of a radical improvement of interstate relations. But this, regrettably, did not happen. The latest session of the National People's Congress indicates that hostility to the Soviet Union continues to be elevated to the rank of state policy of China.

The Chinese authorities' stand once again indicates that their words are obviously at variance with deeds, their statements as to [the] desire to improve relations with their neighbour are not backed by practical deeds. There are all signs that for some people in China tension in Soviet-Chinese relations and artificial stirring up of anti-Sovietism are more suitable than moralisation of Soviet-Chinese relations.

As far as the Soviet leadership is concerned, it proceeds from the firm conviction that in relations between the USSR and the PRC there are no matters which could not be solved in the spirit of goodneighbourliness. The Soviet side, displaying good will, will continue to act in this direction. Of course, Peking's present hostility to the USSR cannot be taken into account in the Soviet Union. The Soviet people, however, does not lose hope that, with the passage of time, the relations of cooperation and good-neighbourliness between the USSR and the PRC will be restored in the interests of the Soviet and Chinese peoples and peace throughout the world. The matter will depend on what attitude the PRC will take up.

PRC USES ESCAP AS PLATFORM TO LAUNCH ANTI-SOVIET ATTACKS

OW211941Y Moscow in Mandarin to Southeast Asia 0630 GMT 19 Mar 78 OW

[Unattributed commentary: "Demagoguery--Not Constructive Contributions"]

[Excerpts] In his speech at the recent session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific [ESCAP], the Chinese delegate (Ku Tsu-kuo), tried to malign the Soviet Union's economic policy toward Asia, describing it as a serious disadvantage to the developing countries. This station's observer has this to say:

It is noteworthy that the Chinese delegate failed to substantiate his attack on the Soviet Union. This is not accidental. Facts clearly show that the Soviet Union is actively helping the young Asian countries to develop socially and economically and is always their friend in the United Nations.

The Soviet Union firmly opposes the West's attempt to force developing countries in Southeast Asia to continue supplying agricultural and raw materials for the large capitalist countries. Like the delegates of Indonesia, India and other developing countries, the Soviet delegate at last year's ESCAP session declared that major emphasis should be placed on the industrialization of the Southeast Asian countries in formulating the region's development (?plans) for the 1980's. The Soviet Union wants to reinforce its reputation with actions in helping the region's developing countries. About 90 percent of the total Soviet economic and technical assistance to these countries is spent on production, primarily for the development of industry, particularly, the power industry. For example, the Soviet Union's important contributions to the development of the metallurgical industry in India is well known. Recently, the Soviet Union and Indonesia signed an agreement on Soviet technical and economic aid for the construction of a key hydraulic project in central Java. In short, facts show that the Soviet Union's activities in ESCAP are positive, constructive, and conducive to the social and economic progress of the region's developing countries.

(?At first) Peking flatly refused to participate in this organization. Later, it actually took a disrupting position in the organization. Throughout the sessions of the commission, the Chinese delegate never made a positive proposal, but merely used the meetings as a platform to launch anti-Soviet attacks which had nothing to do with the agenda.

PRC'S EXPANSION IN ASIA CONDUCTED UNDER RESEARCH GUISE

BK211551Y Moscow in Indonesian to Indonesia 1500 GMT 20 Mar 78 BK

[Indonesian journalist (Kasman Setiawan) commentary: "Expansion Under Cover of Research"]

[Text] Under the pretext of performing scientific expeditions, Chinese vessels have roamed the southern seas in the last 4 years. The vessels have gone far to the south, violating Philippine, Malaysian and Indonesian territorial waters. They claim to have made a series of discoveries.

The Chinese seamen first discovered and forcibly occupied the Paracel Islands. Later, they conducted research on the Spratly Islands, which never belonged to China--ignoring the fact that those islands fall under another country's jurisdiction.

Peking claims to have made an oil discovery on the Spratly Islands that it says is worth exploiting. Meanwhile, to prove its supposed jurisdiction over the Spratly Islands, Peking announced a scientific discovery which it claimed was made by Chinese archeologists on one of the islands in August (?1976). Peking said that they had unearthed human bones closely resembling those of the ancient Sinanthropus Pekinensis. Certain observers in Jakarta bitterly retorted that since Sinanthropus Pekinensis closely resembles the ancient Java Man, Pithecanthropus Erectus, then according to Peking's logic, China could easily make a similar claim that Java belongs to China. It might be worth recalling that since the Middle Ages, Chinese emperors sent many expeditions to capture Java and other Indonesian islands, but their plots were always crushed. However, the heirs to those emperors apparently have failed to draw a lesson from history.

Their maps claim possession of the Sulu Islands of the Philippines, the Malaysian island of (Sen Pin), which is only 20 miles of the coast of Sarawak and thousands of miles from the Chinese mainland, and several other islands by shading those islands in the same color as the Chinese mainland. According to press reports, Peking has established support bases for its naval and air forces on several islands in the southern part of the South China Sea in its attempt to further expansion under the cover of research. NCNA has described the important research role played by Chinese army units deployed on those islands. Peking's expansionist policy has created serious apprehension among the people of countries in the south seas. Peking continues to follow Mao Tse-tung's policy of ordering his successors to take over Southeast Asia. Mao said that the Southeast Asian region is rich enough in natural resources to compensate for the struggle. His heirs, who are imposing new pressures, continue to follow that course, as indicated by Peking's geographic experts in their research.

RADIOACTIVE CLOUD FROM PRC EXPLOSION REPORTED OVER U.S.

LD211240Y Moscow TASS in English 1102 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Washington, March 21, TASS--The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reported that a radioactive cloud resultant of a nuclear explosion made in China last week, on Sunday reached Alaska and Canada's western part. The agency's report points out that there will be rain and snow fall-out from this explosion not only in the above-mentioned areas of the North American Continent, but also in most of eastern states of the United States.

PEKING ENCOURAGING, SUPPLYING INDIAN SEPARATISTS

LD211620Y Moscow TASS in English 1550 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Delhi, March 21, TASS--Far from stopping supplying arms to the nationalistic groups among the Naga and Mizo tribes, Peking has actually increased these supplies further for subversive activities in the northeastern parts of Indian, writes the Indian weekly BLITZ. Peking's growing interference causes the serious concern of Indian leaders, the weekly stresses.

It is also known, BLITZ notes further, that Peking is vigorously financing a certain group of people in order to stir up disorders in India's Sikkim state. The so-called "movement for the independence of Sikkim", the magazine writes, is definitely organised by Peking's agents. The ultimate aim of this provocation is to bring pressure to bear on India and force her to accept Peking's concept of the border problem. This is also evidenced by reports on big concentrations of Chinese troops near the Nathula Pass and at other strategic points along the Sino-Indian border and also in various parts of Tibet.

NPC CONSTITUTION, STATEMENTS REVEAL AGGRESSIVE POLICY

OW210742Y Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Mandarin to Southeast Asia 0930 GMT 18 Mar 78 OW

[Shalygin commentary]

[Excerpts] The Constitution adopted by China's recent National People's Congress [NPC] states: The state devotes major efforts to the building of the Chinese People's Liberation Army. This statement finalizes the general trend towards militarism that prevailed at the latest NPC. Foreign observers noted that many army deputies attended the Congress. Army deputies, who comprise 5 percent of China's population, accounted for 14 percent of the total number of deputies. Foreign observers also noted that Teng Hsiao-ping, an influential leader, attended the Congress as an army deputy. This has deep implications. Clad in military uniforms, the Chinese leaders spoke at the Congress about the inevitability of a new world war and the necessity of modernizing the army. It is noteworthy that the resolution adopted by the first session of the NPC Standing Committee on 7 March greatly extended the term of compulsory military service. The first session of the 5th NPC confirmed that Mao Tse-tung's successors within the Peking leadership have continued to implement an antisocialist policy aimed at militarizing China. According to statistics given by a U.S. scientist, (Miller), China presently has 333 warheads and 5 delivery systems. The number of Chinese troops exceeds all other countries in the world.

Since Mao Tse-tung's death, the new Chinese leadership has intensified efforts to militarize the country. In January 1977, national conferences concerning air defense, production of various munition factories under the Third Ministry of Machine Building, militarization plans, and military research and development were held in China. To underline the great significance of these conferences, Hua Kuo-feng received the conference participants. A conference of the personnel of major industrial departments was held in the second half of 1977. The conference repeatedly stressed each department's role in providing a sufficient amount of its products to meet military requirements. Commenting on the electronics industry conference, PEOPLE'S DAILY said: The electronics industry is a new branch of the defense industry. The pace of its development has a vital bearing on the building of the army. Mao Tse-tung's successors have conducted extensive talks with Western nations and Japan concerning the purchase of modern weapons. The Peking leaders have already purchased nonnuclear military technology from France, Britain and the United States. The Chinese leadership has also increased its nuclear armament efforts. In the past, China performed nuclear tests about once a year. But the interval between tests recently has become much shorter. The latest Chinese nuclear explosion was carried out only 6 months after the explosion in September 1977. The present Chinese leaders have clearly hinted that Peking may possess neutron bombs, the newest and most barbarous nuclear weapon. The Peking leaders have tried their utmost to expand the scale of military research in their country. The inscriptions written by China's high-ranking leaders marking the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese Academy of Miliary Sciences recently called for developing research on military sciences and studying modern warfare. China's present arms buildup will affect China's domestic and international policies. At home, the arms buildup will reduce the possibility for national economic development and impose a freeze on the people's livelihood. Internationally, China's militarization threatens neighboring countries. China has made territorial claims on many Southeast Asian countries. They have every reason to be afraid of Peking's buildup.

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON VISIT TO POLAND BY PLO'S QADDUMI

LD211630Y Moscow TASS in English 1554 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Warsaw, March 21 TASS--Poland condemns Israel's aggression against Lebanon, expresses solidarity with the Palestinian people and supports its heroic struggle, says a communique on the visit to Poland by a delegation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation headed by Faruq Qaddumi, member of the Executive Committee, head of the Political Department of the PLO. During his visit F. Qaddumi outlined the PLO's stand on topical Middle East events, informed about Israel's attack on Palestinian camps in southern Lebanon and described the resolute struggle by the Palestine resistance movement against this aggression.

The sides expressed conviction that a lasting settlement of the Middle East conflict is unthinkable without the full withdrawal of Israeli troops from occupied Arab territories, without granting to the Arab people of Palestine the right to self-determination, including the right to create an independent Palestinian state. The further strengthening of the unity of progressive Arab forces and their interaction with socialist states and forces of progress in the whole world is of paramount importance for the attainment of these aims, the communique says.

TODOR ZHIVKOV STOPS IN KHABAROVSK ON RETURN FROM JAPAN

OW211137Y Khabarovsk Domestic Service in Russian 0930 GMT 20 Mar 78 OW

[Text] The government delegation of the People's Republic of Bulgaria headed by Todor Zhivkov, first secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee and chairman of the Council of State of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, stopped over in Khabarovsk on Saturday on its way home from Japan. He was accompanied by Petur Mladenov, Bulgarian minister of foreign affairs, and other officials. The Bulgarian comrades were met at the airport by Aleksey Klimentyevich Cherniy, Khabarovskiy Kraykom first secretary; Army General Tretyak, commander of the Red Banner Far East Military District; secretaries and members of the gorkom bureau and other responsible leaders of party, soviet, and public organizations of the city. On behalf of the kraykom, the krayispolkom, and the communists and all working people of Khabrarovsiy Kray, Aleksey Klimentyevich Cherniy cordially congratulated Todor Zhivkov and all the Bulgarian comrades on the 30th anniversary of the signing of the treaty of friendship, cooperation, and mutual assistance between the Soviet Union and People's Republic of Bulgaria. Todor Zhivkov expressed thanks for the warm words of welcome and wished the people of the Far East and all the Soviet people success in fulfilling the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress. The Bulgarian Government delegation left Khabarovsk by air on the same day.

HUSAK CONFERS HERO OF CSSR AWARD ON SOVIET COSMONAUTS

LD161334Y Moscow TASS in English 1324 GMT 16 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Prague, March 16 TASS--On proposal of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and the Government of Czechoslovakia, President Gustav Husak of Czechoslovakia has conferred the honorary title of Hero of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic on pilot-cosmonauts, citizens of the USSR Yuriy Romanenko, Georgiy Grechko and Aleksey Gubarev for the successful space flight on board the orbital research complex Salyut-6--Soyuz as part of the international crew and for the courage and heroism displayed in the process.

CPCZ CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM ADDRESSED BY HUSAK

LD201529Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Mar 78 p 5 LD

[Text] Prague, 17 March TASS--A 2-day CPCZ Central Committee plenum has finished work. Its participants discussed the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium's report on the results of the fulfillment of the 15th CPCZ Congress decisions and the party's further tasks, which was delivered by G. Husak, general secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee and president of the CSSR.

At the end of the debate a resolution was adopted on the questions under discussion. Husak delivered the concluding speech. He noted the great importance of the plenum which summed up the results of 2 years of work by the party and the entire people to implement the 15th party congress decisions and solidified communists' tasks for the next period. The speaker stressed the unanimity of the plenum participants when discussing the results of the party's work in the last 2 years. Our party and all the working people can be proud of these results, he noted.

The main thing today is for us to work still more intensively to insure that all planned tasks are fulfilled in the remaining 3 years of the 5-year plan, Husak said. He dwelt on the need to improve the party's mass political work, to strengthen still more the deeply rooted conviction among the people of the correctness of the CPCZ's policy, to strengthen the party's link with the people and to inculcate feelings of socialist patriotism and socialist internationalism. The death of these feelings, Husak said in conclusion, is attested by our people's pride and joy at the first flight by an international space crew which included the first Czechoslovak cosmonaut along with a Soviet cosmonaut.

INTERNATIONAL, DOMESTIC ISSUES DISCUSSED AT MSZMP PLENUM

LD201531Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Mar 78 p 5 LD

[Text] TASS--An enlarged MSZMP Central Committee plenum has been held under the chairmanship of J. Kadar, first secretary of the MSZMP Central Committee. The plenum discussed a report from A. Denes, secretary of the MSZMP Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the MSZMP Central Committee, on the situation in Hungary's agriculture and food industry and the tasks of further developing them.

The information report says that the plenum approved a report on the Budapest conference of the secretaries for international and ideological questions of the Central Committee of the socialist countries' communist and workers parties. The MSZMP Central Committee attaches great importance to the conference.

The MSZMP Central Committee stated that the detente process is continuing to make headway, surmounting every obstacle in its path. The forces of socialism, social progress, national independence and peace are exerting an increasing influence on international events.

By building up the arms race, the report notes, extremist circles of monopoly capital are striving to create obstacles in the way of transformations which serve the interests of all the world's peoples. They are threatening mankind with the development of new types of weapons of mass destruction. [paragraph continues]

The plan to produce neutron weapons and deploy them in West European countries may create a new and extremely complex situation. All this emphatically runs counter to the policy line of political and military detente and to the spirit of the Helsinki final act.

The report on the plenum points out that the development of the communist and workers movement and the growth of its influence are a considerable factor in molding the international situation and in the struggle for peace. This is why international reaction and the enemies of progress and peace are doing everything possible to split the unity of communists' ranks and to place the communist parties of the socialist and the capitalist countries in opposition to one another. The conviction is expressed that the exposure of these attempts, the strengthening of mutual solidarity and the development of cooperation on the basis of the principles of Marxism-Leninism accord with the interests of all the fraternal parties.

The MSZMP Central Committee stresses that the MSZMP still deems it necessary to develop multilateral cooperation among the socialist countries and to strengthen the unity of the international communist and workers movement. The MSZMP will continue to participate actively in the development of cooperation in the ideological sphere.

The document also notes that the MSZMP Central Committee regards the Belgrade meeting of representatives of the states which participated in the all-European conference in Helsinki as an important event. It supports the decision which they took to hold further meetings which aid the detente process.

KOSYGIN GREETS DANUBE COMMISSION IN BUDAPEST

LD161443Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Mar 78 Morning Edition p 1 LD

[Text] To the ceremonial session of the Danube Commission devoted to the 30th anniversary of the signing of the convention on the control of Danube shipping in Budapest:

Allow me on behalf of the USSR Government to cordially greet the participants in the ceremonial session devoted to the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Danube shipping convention.

The concluding of the convention was an event received with satisfaction by the peoples of Europe who had undergone the harsh trials of the most destructive war in history. It laid the legal foundations for the development of fruitful cooperation between the Danube states. The Danube Commission formed in accordance with the convention has done much useful work in the sphere of developing Danube shipping and has made a substantial contribution to extending economic ties between the countries bordering on the Danube.

Taking into account the increasing significance of the Danube as an international waterway and proceeding from the provisions of the final act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the commission is called upon to continue to resolve a whole series of important questions of cooperation between European countries in the area of this major waterways use.

The Soviet Government expresses confidence that the many years of experience accumulated by the Danube Commission will help it to successfully cope with its tasks, and that the Danube will be an artery of close cooperation for the benefit of the peoples of the countries bordering on it and of Europe as a whole.

[Signed] A. Kosygin, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN LIGHT OF MORO KIDNAPING NOTED

LD221033Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Mar 78 p 5 LD

[N. Prozhogin report: "Pressing Problems"]

[Text] Rome--Rome has accompanied on their last journey the victims of the terrorist action in connection with the kidnapping of A. Moro, chairman of the National Council of the Christian Democratic Party--the five members of his guard who were killed. In the capital and throughout the country an operation of an unprecedented scale is taking place to find the criminals and the politician they abducted.

To judge by official reports, these extraordinary measures have still not made it possible to establish the identify of the actual perpetrators of the political crime. However, there are indications that is is a question not of an isolated group of terrorists, but of one of the strike detachments of a far-flung organization with connections far beyond Italy's borders. The country's democratic circles are again noting that, whatever sign these groups and detachments may hide behind, their activity serves the interests and aims of the forces of international reaction which are trying to halt by any means the development of democratization of political and public life in Italy.

On Friday Prime Minister G. Andreotti held a meeting of leaders of the five parties, including the Communist Party, which make up the new parliamentary majority. On the agenda were the pressing problems of the internal political situation in the country. E. Berlinguer, secretary general of the Italian Communist Party, took part in the work of the conference. A communique published after the conference says that measures to strengthen the forces for maintaining public order and judicial organs were discussed. The leaders of the political parties undertook to launch a country-wide campaign in defense of democracy and the constitution, calling on all citizens for cooperation.

PROPORTIONATE GAINS OF FRENCH LEFT IN ELECTION EMPHASIZED

LD212232Y Moscow in French to Europe 1800 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD

[Viktor Shlenov commentary: "The Results of the General Election in France"]

[Text] The European press is commenting extensively on the results of the general election in France. Many bourgeois observers are trying to present the election results as a defeat for the forces of the left and a victory for the majority in power. But is this really the case?

I think this is (rather) too categorical a judgment. Certainly, the parties in power have managed to hold onto the majority of seats in parliament, but that majority has shrunk, and to judge from the number of votes, the bourgeois parties only managed to exceed the 50 percent limit by some tenths of 1 percent. The Communist Party and the Socialist Party, the two main parties in the Union of the Left, increased their representation in the National Assembly by 14 and 15 seats respectively. Some 15 million French men and women voted for the parties in the left, thus backing the Joint Program, for democratic sociopolitical change, a program of concrete measures for struggling against unemployment, and inflation and to stop the lowering in the living standards of the workers.

The parties in the left had a high chance of winning power, as a great many public opinion polls showed. However, that did not happen. Why? In my opinion, there are two basic reasons.

The gigantic propaganda machine of the majority in power launched an unprecedented anticommunist offensive. They resorted to every possible procedure, even the most brutal. They tried to scare the electorate by telling them that the communists would want to seize the key posts in any government of the left and then exclude the socialists from the government. There is no doubt that this lie had an influence on the state of mind of a part of the electorate who gave their votes to the socialists in the first round but in the second, refused to back the communist candidate.

The position of the parties in the left was also weakened by the (?long) [word indistinct] discussion about updating the Joint Government Program.

The elections, then, are over. But the problems which were at the center of the election struggle still remain. These are the economic crisis, 1.5 million unemployed, persistent inflation and the steady drop in the living standards of the workers. The bourgeois parties mean to go on with the policy of austerity which will inevitably lead to a [word indistinct] in the workers' industrial struggle, and will require the unity of all democratic forces, which was and is the chief means of defending the interests of the workers.

[Words indistinct] After the elections, the general secretary of the French Communist Party, Georges Marchais, pointed out that the communists will struggle and move toward union and cohesion to create conditions for the democratic changes which France still needs.

RIGHT VICTORY IN FRANCE CHARGED TO 'UNFAIR ELECTION LAW'

LD211845Y Moscow TASS in English 1820 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Paris, March 21, TASS--The newspaper L'HUMANITE has published today the statement by the Politbureau of the French Communist Party in connection with the parliamentary elections in that country. The Politbureau notes that although the right-wing forces have preserved a majority in the National Assembly, the left-wing forces have widened their representation in this chamber of the French Parliament. The ruling coalition, the statement stresses, preserves its numerical advantage "only due to the highly unfair election law".

A characteristic feature of the elections held, the statement goes on, consists in the fact that "both in the first and second round of elections, the right-wing and left-wing forces received roughly the same number of votes, in other words the balance of political forces in that country is more or less even."

The campaign unleashed by the bourgeoisie against the French Communist Party has proved to be failure, the statement notes. The French Communist Party received 20.6 per cent of votes in the first round. The number of electors, who voted for the candidates of the Communist Party grew by 700 thousand compared with the parliamentary elections of 1973.

The Politbureau of the French Communist Party stresses that nevertheless the results gained by the left-wing forces in the elections do not meet the hopes of millions of Frenchmen and Frenchwomen, who view democratic reforms as the sole means of taking the country out of the crisis and its embarking on the road of social progress and democracy.

We have held all of our political campaigns, the document stresses, in full observance of the Joint Government Program of left-wing forces of 1972.

The statement notes that the partners of the French Communist Party did not answer its proposal as regards resumption of talks on a renewal of the Joint Program, and did not heed the calls for going to elections under the conditions of unity.

The Politbureau of the French Communist Party declares its determination to further insistently defend the interests of the working people and the mass of the people, come out for the satisfaction of their demands and points to the necessity of strengthening the party.

It has been decided to convene a plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the French Communist Party on April 26-27.

NORWEGIAN MINISTER IN MOSCOW FOR SVALBARD FISHING TALKS

LD1616llY Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 14 Mar 78 p 9 LD

[Hans Petter Nilsen Moscow dispatch: "Norway's Protection Measures for Svalbard Zone Submitted"]

[Excerpt] Moscow, 13 March--Norwegian Law of the Sea Minister Jens Evensen, who arrived in Moscow on Monday, will submit to Soviet Fish Industry Minister Aleksandr Ishkov three specific measures which the Norwegian Government is considering implementing in the fisheries protection zone around Svalbard. Earlier this year the EC countries and the United States were informed of the Norwegian "protection package." There are no exaggerated hopes on the Norwegian side that the Soviet reaction to the measures [words indistinct]. At this stage there is already reason to be prepared for the need for new rounds of talks with the Russians on the Svalbard zone.

The government wanted consultations with the countries concerned before the control measures were eventually implemented. Earlier this year Jens Evensen and his colleagues visited Bonn, Brussels, London, Paris and Washington to inform them of the Norwegian view of the Svalbard zone. Moscow is the last stop on this tour.

The East European reaction to Norway's establishment of the protection zone last June based on the Norwegian economic zone law has been very strong. Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria and the Soviet Union have expressed their dissatisfaction in the form of diplomatic protests. Of the East European countries which fish in the waters off Svalbard only East Germany has not protested.

The Svalbard Box

There is reason to believe that the Soviet Union is willing to accept only Norwegian protection measures within the so-called Svalbard box--not for the rest of the 200 mile zone. Norway would hardly accept such a limitation. If the Soviet view succeeds, it would mean that a considerable section of the protection zone would lie outside Norwegian jurisdiction.

In the Svalbard Treaty, signed in 1920, borders are drawn for the area which embraces the Spitsbergen Archipelago. The islands in this area are to be embraced by the treaty stipulations. According to this, Norway is to have "full and inviolate sovereignty" over this area, which has since been described as the Svalbard box.

In the east the limit of the "box" coincides with the Soviet sector line. The limit for the fisheries protection zone off Svalbard, on the other hand projects further east.

Reporting Duty

One of the measures in the government's protection package--the duty to report all fishing in the Svalbard zone--has already been implemented for a while. In contrast with the Western countries the East European states have not respected this stipulation. This point could cause the Norwegian negotiators considerable problems.

The Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission rules for mesh size and the minimum size of fish have been used in this part of the Barents Sea previously. But they have not been practised as Norwegian stipulations. In other words, Norway has not previously had the authority to use these rules in the Svalbard zone. If the government chooses to introduce the Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission stipulations into the protection zone, Norwegian fisheries inspectors could intervene against vessels which, for example, use tackle with too small a mesh size.

Young Fish Zones

The third measure under consideration is the establishment of two areas in the Svalbard zone where restrictions are aimed to protect young fish which have some of their most important areas for growing in the waters off Svalbard. This applies especially to the joint Norwegian-Soviet stocks of cod.

If the government establishes the two "young fish zones" as trawl-free zones, some countries could claim that the measure is discriminatory since their fishing off Svalbard is exclusively done by trawling.

It could be pointed out that the measure favors countries which pursue fishing with other fishing tackle. There is reason to believe that Norwegian negotiators have already encountered such arguments, despite the fact that fishing off Svalbard with tackle other than trawls occurs only to a small extent.

By establishing zones with a total ban on any form of fishing, the Norwegian authorities could safeguard themselves against allegations of introducing discriminatory measures. In that case a choice between these options would be made not out of respect for protection of young fish but for political considerations.

Communique Issued on Talks

LD211413Y Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 17 Mar 78 p 8 LD

[Apparent text of 16 March Soviet-Norwegian "communique" on Moscow talks between Soviet Fish Industry Minister Aleksandr Ishkov and Norwegian Law of the Sea Minister Jens Evensen]

[Text] Following an invitation from the Soviet fish industry minister a Norwegian delegation led by Law of the Sea Minister Jens Evensen visited the Soviet Union 13-16 March 1978.

During the meetings which took place between delegations from the Soviet Union and Norway, led by Ministers A.A. Ishkov and Jens Evensen, discussion was continued on the question of further measures for fisheries control in the Barents Sea and the Norwegian Sea.

The parties again confirmed their joint interest and their joint responsibility in formulating measures regarding the conservation of the vital resources in the Norwegian and Barents seas, the substantial part of which constitutes a comprehensive ecosystem.

During the discussion of questions concerning further measures for fisheries control in the Svalbard area the parties stated that there was a need to take nondiscriminatory measures to protect young fish, and that these measures must be based on objective scientific data.

The parties recognized that stocks which migrate between several zones in the Barents and Norwegian seas must be subject to regulations in all areas, including Svalbard. They recognized the importance of having effective protection measures for arctic cod in accordance with the Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission's relevant recommendations which stipulate the minimum mesh size and the minimum size of cod.

Especially as regards the prevention of overfishing of young fish, the parties recognized the need to introduce special zones where all fishing will be entirely or partially banned on a nondiscriminatory basis.

The parties recognized the need to introduce a duty to report [catches] for all countries fishing in the area. Such information which is received from all countries must insure an objective assessment of the intensity of fishing in the area. The information which is supplied by way of reporting will be made available to the other party.

With regard to the legal basis for the establishment, implementation and enforcement of the measures for controlling fishing off Svalbard, the parties maintain their fundamental stances.

UK'S CALLAGHAN LEAVES FOR ECONOMIC TALKS WITH CARTER

LD221356Y Moscow TASS in English 1500 GMT 22 Mar 78 LD

[Text] London, March 22, TASS--TASS correspondent Aleksandr Shalnev reports: British Prime Minister James Callaghan today flies to Washington for negotiations with U.S. President James Carter. They will discuss questions pertaining to a search for a way out of a deep economic and monetary-financial crisis Western countries are experiencing.

The Washington negotiations are only one of a whole series of bilateral and multilateral meetings planned for the next few months between representatives of Western capitalist countries to discuss economic problems. The newspaper TIMES stresses that the visit should be regarded as a new testimony of the concern leaders of Western states feel over the persisting recession in the capitalist world.

Most of the London commentators assess the current economic standing of Western countries as depressing. A report of the Commission of European Communities, that has been recently published, points out that the pace of economic growth in the country of the Nine this year will largely lag behind the planned figures.

In Britain the gross national product last year increased by less than 1 percent, and it is quite probable that the tendency will persist in the current year, the newspaper DAILY TELEGRAPH points out.

At the meeting in Washington, newspapers report, the British premier will be exerting efforts to see to it that Western powers should start, at long last, acting jointly to further pressing economic problems.

But James Callaghan's calls to other Western leaders to coordinate their efforts are rather full of despair than hope, writes the newspaper FINANCIAL TIMES. The newspaper stresses that much should hardly be expected both from the coming Washington meeting and from other such meetings at the most different levels.

Now that all Western capitalist countries are crisis-hit, it is unreal to expect mutual assistance. Therefore, the FINANCIAL TIMES described the negotiations to be held in Washington as a dialogue of the deaf.

LEVIN DISCUSSES LORD CHALFONT ARTICLE IN UK PAPER

LD212125Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1830 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD

[Viktor Levin commentary]

[Text] An article has appeared in the London TIMES by Lord Chalfont in which the danger of [word indistinct] NATO strategists about the practical possibility of tactical nuclear battles in Europe is mentioned.

Lord Chalfont, our commentator Viktor Levin notes, is by no means an opponent of NATO and therefore his statements deserve greater attention. He says that certain circles in the United States are now saying more and more persistently that a tactical nuclear battle in Europe must be viewed as one of the practical possibilities and that the leaders of the West European countries must start preparing plans for such an event. It is alleged in this that selective nuclear strikes will not cause any special losses.

But any person hoping that such a conflict can be limited to the boundaries of Western Europe, Lord Chalfont emphatically argues, is living in an unreal world restricted by the academic scenarios of strategists.

In this edition of THE TIMES the authoratative evidence of the U.S. military clique's sinister plans draws attention to itself. If the organ of the British business circles considered it necessary to subject the strategic rough drafts of the Pentagon generals to critical analysis, then one can imagine how far they have gotten in drawing up plans for a nuclear war in Europe. And although there is no mention of the neutron bomb in the article by Lord Chalfont, it is quite obvious that the U.S. military circles associate particularly dangerous plans with it, as on more than one occasion highly-ranked Pentagon representatives have let it be understood that the neutron bomb is intended to lower the so-called nuclear threshold--that is, the level of the use of nuclear weapons.

If one compares these allusions with the plans about which Lord Chalfont writes, then it will become clear that the Pentagon is ready, as the author of the article in THE TIMES justifiably notes, to leave a radioactive desert in Europe. It is difficult to say whether the sober warning by Lord Chalfont will have the right effect on the British Government but it is quite obvious that broad circles of the British people are already drawing the necessary conclusions.

A campaign of struggle against the neutron bomb and against a continuation of the arms race has developed up and down the country. This struggle is gaining increasing scope in other countries of the continent, too. People realize that the monstrous plans of the U.S. military clique are fraught with a serious threat for the cause of peace, for life itself and this is why they resolutely demand that the neutron bomb be banned and that the NATO strategists be restrained.

IRAN TO RECEIVE FRG TORPEDO BOATS, TRAINING FOR CREWS

LD180144Y Moscow TASS in English 1940 GMT 17 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Bonn, March 17, TASS--The West German military-industrial complex is pushing its products to the markets of more and more countries. The commission for defense affairs in the lower house of the West German Parliament has today authorized a project to construct 10 torpedo boats for Iran at a sum of 1,000 million marks. The general contractor for this order is the AEG-Telefunken concern. The torpedo boats are to be built at the shipyards in Bremen and Rendsburg.

The commission has also decided on training Iranian crews in the Federal Republic of Germany for the 6 submarines of the "209" type, now under construction to an Iranian order at (?East German shipyards).

BUNDESTAG DEPUTY URGES END TO NEUTRON BOMB PRODUCTION

LD171255Y Moscow TASS in English 1226 GMT 17 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Bonn, March 17, TASS--Speaking on the West German radio Alfons Pawelczyk, Bundestag deputy (Social Democratic Party of Germany), stressed the importance of the proposal made by Leonid Brezhnev, the general secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU and president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, for mutual refusal to produce neutron weapons.

Alfons Pawelczyk said he was against such an order of things when production of neutron bombs is first started and then talks opened to discuss them. He said that the present "stable political and military situation in Europe" creates conditions for beginning the discussion of Leonid Brezhnev's proposal. The task now is, he said, to use this proposal and decide the question of the neutron bomb at a conference table, Alfons Pawelczyk said.

NATO LEADERS POSTPONE DECISION ON NEUTRON BOMB

LD211846Y Moscow TASS in English 1824 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD

[Text] New York, March 21, TASS--NATO leaders made a decision to put off indefinitely a special meeting of representatives of West European countries on the question of deployment of neutron weapons in Western Europe that was planned to be held in Brussels on March 22. This was reported by the UPI agency quoting NATO officials. The UPI agency says officials admitted that the meeting was put off for the reason that member countries of the North Atlantic bloc had not yet reached agreement on deployment of the new type of nuclear weapons in Europe.

The United States is exerting strong pressure on West European allies, trying to get their consent for its dangerous designs. But the United States' partners in NATO, faced with the strong protest movement of the public against the neutron bomb, are not in a hurry to grant their consent, the UPI points out.

The decision to put off the meeting does not mean, however, that high-level consultations in NATO on the question of deployment of neutron weapons have been stopped, the agency notes. According to observers, this question will hold an important place on the agenda of the spring session of the NATO council.

FURTHER MATERIAL ON ISRAELI MOVE INTO LEBANON

UN Force

LD220940Y Moscow TASS in English 0801 GMT 22 Mar 78 LD

[Text] New York, March 22, TASS--The U.N. Security Council has approved recommendations of the U.N. secretary-general, Kurt Waldheim, on stationing a U.N. peace-keeping force in Lebanon. The force is being made in accordance with the March 19 resolution of the U.N. Security Council, which calls upon Israel to immediately end military actions against Lebanon and to withdraw without delay its troops from the Lebanese territory.

The U.N. peace-keeping force in Lebanon will include 4,000 men from army contingents put at the disposal of the Security Council by Nepal, Norway, France and Iran. The advance units of the U.N. force are to take positions in south Lebanon today.

The tasks of the U.N. include supervision of the withdrawal of the troops of the Israeli aggressors and maintenance of peace and security in that area. The U.N. troops will stay in southern areas of Lebanon for 6 months. Their mandate may be then prolonged by the Security Council's decision. They will act under the direction of the U.N. Security Council.

Charge of Genocide

LD211659Y Moscow TASS in English 1654 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 21, TASS--"By supporting the struggle of the Palestinian people, the Arab countries are also defending their own interests," writes IZVESTIYA's news analyst, Vladimir Kudryavtsev.

"The Arab people of Palestine, driven out by its homeland, is an object of unheard violence by the Israeli aggressors and their imperialist backers. This violence is directed not only against those who are defending their legitimate national rights arms in hand but also against old people, women and children. This is real genocide."

"The aggressor has not only taken away land and homes from the Palestinian people but also had the impudence of launching a unilateral war, is trying to justify the invasion of Lebanon's territory by an incident, thus challenging not only Lebanon but also the United Nations organization and the whole world.

Israel is exercising its genocide policy not only in practice but is also sealing it legislatively."

"Before the armed raid against Lebanon was launched, the Israeli Knesset (parliament) passed a resolution calling for a merciless struggle against the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and physical destruction of its leaders. What is then the real worth of the pretended complaints by the Israeli Zionists over 'acts of terror', which they see in the resistance of peoples to their diktat, Kudryavtsev notes. The decision of the Knesset is legalized terror made state policy. This decision is a slap in the face of bourgeois democracy, which is so much boasted of by the hypocritical human rights zealots.

This slap in the face has touched off loud reverberations even in the U.S. capitol, as its 'zealots' did not utter even a word in connection with the vicious and disgraceful symbiosis of bourgeois democracy and terrorist genocide made by the Israeli parliament. On the contrary, the ruling circles of the USA have shown a highly favourable attitude to actions of their Israeli junior partners flouting the rights not only of an individual but of a whole nation."

"The Arab people of Palestine displays a model of courage and self-sacrifice for the sake of its homeland's revival, Kudryavtsev goes on to write. In its struggle it set itself the noble aim of restoring its legitimate national rights, including the right to create its independent state on the Palestinian soil, the right to return to its homes. By its struggle it has placed itself in the vanguard of the Arab national liberation movement. Under the conditions which have emerged in the Middle East the Arab people of Palestine, whether somebody may like it or not, is the most consistent and irreconcilable fighter against the Israeli aggressors and imperialists. To be able to create its own state, it must wage a selfless struggle for the withdrawal of the Israeli armed forces from the occupied Arab territories. And this coincides with the general Arab goal of liberation of all the territories occupied by Israel, failing which an overall just settlement in the Middle East cannot be achieved".

Damascus Meeting

LD211340Y Moscow TASS in English 1318 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Damascus, March 21, TASS--A two-day meeting of foreign and defence ministers of the countries, members of the front of the progressive Arab states (Algeria, Libya, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Syria) and the Palestine Liberation Organization has ended in Syria's capital. Questions pertaining to the invasion and occupation by Israeli troops of Lebanon's southern areas were discussed at the meeting.

The participants in the meeting passed a statement resolutely denouncing Israel's criminal aggression. They demanded that Israeli troops be withdrawn from Lebanon's territory immediately and without any strings attached. The participants in the meeting pledged full support for the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Lebanese Government.

In the statement, the progressive Arab states characterised Israel's military action as an attempt to undermine the sovereignty of Lebanon and to eliminate the Palestine resistance movement. The meeting condemned the capitulatory line of the Egyptian president, his policy of separate deals with Israel.

Aid from Baghdad

LD221022Y Moscow TASS in English 0736 GMT 22 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Baghdad, March 22, TASS--5 million dollars have been earmarked by the leadership of the Ba'th Party to give relief to refugees from southern areas of Lebanon. Radio Iraq reported that the number of refugees, who were compelled to leave their homes because of Israel's barbarous aggression, now exceeds 200,000.

The Government of Iraq has also decided to send immediate medical aid to units of the Palestine resistance movement and the Lebanese national forces, fighting against the Israeli aggression. 50 Iraqi doctors are leaving for Lebanon.

U.S. Hypocrisy on Aid

LD211810Y Moscow TASS in English 1747 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpt] Beirut, March 21 TASS--The Israeli Airforce has for the first time used in south Lebanon American pellet bombs and the latest U.S. F-15 fighters as well as the new Israeli Mercava tanks with U.S.-made engines.

The statement made by a spokesman for the U.S. State Department that the United States is planning to give "aid" to the Lebanese refugees forced to leave the territory occupied by the Israeli military was assessed in Lebanon as Washington's fresh act of hypocrisy. Political observers in the Lebanese capital note that this propaganda move has been conceived by the United States in order to mislead world public and distract its attention from the obvious facts of Washington's support for the aggressor, from the supplies of arms and military equipment, including the latest F-15 and F-16 aircraft to it.

"leeing the horrors of war unleashed by Israel with the direct connivance of the USA, more than 200 thousand inhabitants of southern Lebanon fled to the north of the country. Many of them lost their next of kin, homes and all means of subsistence. Instead, the USA, from whose aircraft bombs are dropped on Lebanese towns and villages, are offering some miserable scraps to that army of destitute people.

U.S. Mideast Policy

LD211818Y Moscow in English to South and Southeast Asia 1100 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Fighting continues in the south of Lebanon. The Israeli aggressors are trying to capture more of the country's territory. They have already occupied one-tenth part of Lebanon. Here is what Radio Moscow correspondent in Beirut Leonid Rassadin reports:

Israeli tanks and infantry supported by aviation are advancing on the highway running along the coast towards Beirut. The heaviest fighting is going on around the port city of Tyre. It is being constantly shelled and bombed. Israelis are said to have dropped pellet bombs which the Americans used in Vietnam. The number of casualties among the civilizns runs into many hundreds and some 200,000 people fled from their homes in the south of Lebanon to escape the Israeli invasion.

Local newspapers say the south of Lebanon is being used to test the latest American weapons. The F-15 planes, the latest model in the American arsenal, took part in raiding population centers and attacking columns of refugees. Incidentally, even the United States' NATO partners don't have such planes while Israel does.

The Lebanese Government has again complained to the United Nations. It says Israel continues the aggression despite the Security Council resolution which demands that military operations against Lebanon be stopped and Israeli troops withdrawn. Local observers underline that the impudent actions of Tel Aviv are the direct result of United States support. In Kuwait the AL-QABAS newspaper points out that those leaders in the Arab world who orientate themselves to the United States can now see what their illusions are worth.

Israel's invasion into Lebanon and the occupation of the southern part of that Arab country is a carefully planned action. This is admitted by the Western press as well. Observers say that a serious attempt is being made to undermine the very possibility of attaining a settlement in the Middle East. The blow is directed first of all against the Palestine resistance movement. The London TIMES says that Israel has set before itself more far-reaching objectives in Lebanon as compared with the original intention to establish a security zone along the border. The DAILY TELEGRAPH, quoting people close to Prime Minister Begin, says that he will in every way oppose the withdrawal of Israeli troops from southern Lebanon. A number of publications take notice of the fact that Israel's aggression against Lebanon has not prevented Begin from visiting Washington for the purpose of reaching a so-called settlement within the framework of Israeli-Egyptian separatist contacts. In that connection, the PEOPLE'S WORLD, published in California, says the present tragic situation has been brought about by the policy of the United States administration in the Middle East, and that includes Washington's moving away from the joint Soviet-American statement of 1st October of last year, which provided for a speedy return to the Geneva peace conference and Washington's unprincipled support of the separate deal between Cairo and Tel Aviv.

U.S. Support of Israel

LD212215Y Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Arabic 1630 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD

[Text] The whole world considers the posture adopted by the United States on the blatant Israeli aggression against Lebanon an expression of the true posture of Washington toward the Arabs. It is no secret that the Americans have in practice approved the Israeli forces' assault on Lebanon, a matter indicated by the reports circulating about the preliminary consultations of Begin and Weizman with the White House. Also, it is no secret that U.S. propaganda is trying to portray this previously prepared, treacherous Israeli aggression as being a reaction to the Palestinian fedayeen. All that has been done by the United States in the 6 days following the aggression is a direct or indirect support for the Israeli piracy and a direct or indirect encouragement of the Zionist aggressors to widen the military operations against the Arabs.

The reception by U.S. President Carter of Begin in Washington and his discussions with him about matters of increased U.S.-Israeli cooperation at a time when Israeli forces are trampling Lebanese territory and are bloodily killing the Palestinian Arabs and Lebanese citizens cannot but be described as support and encouragement.

In this manner also the fact that U.S. Defense Secretary Brown has made a clearly provocative statement pointing out that Israel is now capable of waging an indefinite war by obtaining weapons from the United States to the value of no less than $4 billion must be described as support and encouragement for Israel. As for the Washington POST, on its part, in an endeavor to appease the extremist aggressors, also stresses that the most modern F-15 fighter-bombers, which have not been given by the United States to its NATO allies, are taking part in the raids on the Lebanese towns and villages and the camps of the Palestinian Arabs.

Another matter attracts attention--namely that the United States has rejected the Soviet suggestion to denounce the open, insolent Israeli aggression against Lebanon and to consider it a flagrant violation of world peace and security when a draft resolution came out at the Security Council calling on Israel to halt immediately the military operation against Lebanon and to withdraw promptly the Israeli forces from all the territory of that country. This was precisely what should have been done to halt the criminal actions being committed by the Zionist military clique against the neighboring Arab countries and to stop the dangerous strategy pursued by the present Israeli rulers.

The Americans also rejected very important additions which the Soviets proposed for inclusion in the draft resolution of the Security Council--namely, that dispatching United Nations forces to southenn Lebanon according to this resolution should in no way lessen the sovereign rights of the Lebanese Government and should take into full consideration Israel's responsibility for its actions as an aggressor. This addition was very necessary whether from the angle of protecting the interests of the victim of the Israeli aggressor or from the angle of considering the UN principles, which outline the manner of using UN forces to maintain international peace and security.

The Soviet Union's delegate clearly was not in favor of the Security Council resolution being issued incompletely, because he took into consideration the special request of the Lebanese Government about this and based it on the Soviet Union's striving to halt as quickly as possible the renewed bloodshed in the Middle East. U.S. propaganda, it is noted, is now trying to portray Washington in a useful manner, giving the impression that the Security Council's resolution has been the result of a draft resolution proposed by the United States and is proof of this usefulness.

However, what is now happening in southern Lebanon makes it possible to judge the purely attractive information nature of this U.S. initiative. Who is likely to believe that Israel, which has been reared and armed by the United States, would ignore the UN Security Council's resolution proposed by the United States, had there not been a U.S. agreement of this? Without any feat of distorting the picture it is possible to assume that the U.S. custodians of Israel for this reason rushed to propose their draft resolution--which disregarded a number of important issues--because they did not want the Security Council to impose severe sanctions against the Israeli aggressors. The Security Council's debate on the situation in the Middle East, in any case, became a forum of protest against the Zionist rulers of Israel.

Role of U.S., Egypt

LD211335Y Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Mar 78 p 3 LD

[From the Col M. Ponomarev and V. Vinogradov international military-political review: "Israel's Pillage in Lebanon"]

[Text] The Near East region has again become the arena for Israeli acts of plunder. On the night of 14-15 March its armed forces undertook a treacherous attack on neighboring Lebanon. The aggressor's tank and motorized infantry formations invaded Lebanese territory along the entire length of the border. At the same time forces were landed on the beaches, and the air force struck Lebanese cities and settlements. For the first time the new F-15 aircraft which Washington had just recently handed over to Israel, took part in attacks on Lebanese cities.

Thousands of Lebanese civilians fell victim to the murderous operations of the Israeli military, plentifully equipped with weapons of American manufacture. Houses, schools and hospitals were destroyed as a result of barbaric air raids and shelling. Even the American press, particularly the Washington POST, was forced to admit that the Israeli Air Force used bombs and missiles on civilian settlements.

Israel has seized pratically all of southern Lebanon--a stretch of land about 100 km wide and between 5 km and 20 km deep. About 900 square km, or a little less than one-tenth of all Lebanese territory, has ended up under the heel of the foreign invaders. Thus, it is not enough that Israel has for a long time now occupied vast regions of Egypt, Jordan and Syria--now it has seized a substantial part of Lebanese territory.

The development of events shows that Israeli ruling circles are striving to secure a lengthy occupation of Lebanese territory in order to inflict the greatest possible losses on the Palestinian resistance movement. The tour by Israeli Prime Minister M. Begin of a number of occupied regions after which, addressing a press conference, he stated that Israel "does not intend" to leave the occupied territory, is indicative in this respect. As the London FINANCIAL TIMES reports, this is evidenced also by the fact that the Israeli command is continuing to deliver ammunition to its forces in southern Lebanon.

Observers note that the Tel Aviv rulers have long awaited an excuse to invade southern Lebanon and strike at the Palestinian resistance movement. Indeed, there is no doubt, the Syrian newspaper ATH-THAWRAH writes, that the present action is in essence a continuation of the expansionist aggressive plans of the Israeli "hawks" vis-a-vis Lebanon. And the French newspaper LE MATIN points out that such a large-scale operation by the Israeli troops could not have been prepared in the 3 days after the incident in Tel Aviv, where there was a clash between a detachment of Palestinian partisans and subunits of the Israeli Army. The aggressor only needed a pretext.

The United States admits that the Israeli attack "was no surprise" to them. A highly placed spokesman of the State Department, virtually justifying the Israeli aggression, asserted that it "will not create a serious problem in the Near East situation." It is obvious from such statements that Israel's action, undertaken with Washington's knowledge, became possible thanks to the direct support of the United States.

In the Arab capitals attention is drawn not only to the point that the brigands' actions were undertaken after careful agreement with the United States. It is also noted there that the intervention became possible at the present time because, having taken the path of separate deals with Israel, President A. as-Sadat kept aloof from the struggle against the Israeli aggressor, split the united front of Arab states and weakened their positions in the struggle against the common enemy. These acts of A. as-Sadat allowed Israel to use a large number of troops for the invasion of Lebanon, because Tel Aviv was confident of the security of its rear from Egypt. Moreover, some of the Israeli forces which invaded southern Lebanon were transferred from the Sinai Peninsula.

However, as correspondents of French newspapers note in reports from the scene of events, in invading southern Lebanon the Israeli aggressor did not succeed in breaking the combat forces of the Palestinian resistance movement. The fighters of united detachments of the Palestinian resistance movement and national patriotic forces are offering courageous resistance and in many regions are containing the superior forces of the interventionists. The Israelis are suffering losses during the bitter fighting. Several Israeli tanks and armored vehicles have been destroyed. The air defense forces of the united detachments of the Palestinian resistance movement and national patriotic forces are repelling the enemy aircraft. Subunits of the united detachments are carrying out raids at night in the rear of the aggressor, inflicting casualties and losses of military equipment on them.

Israel's brazen attack on a sovereign state has generated a broad wave of angry protests throughout the world. True to its internationalist duty, the Soviet Union came out in defense of the victims of Zionist aggression. As the TASS statement stresses, the Soviet Union decisively condemns Israel's armed invasion of Lebanon and appeals to all who cherish peace to pool their efforts to insure that Israel's aggression is stopped and that its forces are immediately withdrawn from Lebanese territory. The entire responsibility for the dangerous consequences of the sharp new exacerbation of the situation in the Near East, the statement says, lies with the Government of Israel.

PLO DELEGATES SAY USSR HAS MIDEAST ROLE

LD211415Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Mar 78 p 5 LD

[TASS report: "Appeal for Unity"]

[Text] Cairo, 16 March--The biggest international problems, including the Near East conflict, cannot be resolved without the participation of one of the great powers--the Soviet Union--in their settlement. The implementation of the Arabs' demands--the liberation of the lands seized by Israel and the creation of an independent Palestinian state--cannot be achieved in the absence of inter-Arab solidarity. The newspaper AL-AHALI reports that this was stated by members of the PLO delegation headed by PLO Executive Committee member Majdi Abu Ramadan at a meeting held here with the leadership of the Egyptian National Progressive (leftwing) Party.

The members of the PLO delegation stressed that the strategy of the Palestinian movement is based on the Soviet-U.S. joint statement on the Near East, which calls for the resumption of the work of the Geneva peace conference.

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON CUBAN MINISTER'S PDRY VISIT

LD211804Y Moscow TASS in English 1627 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Aden, March 21, TASS--A joint communique has been published here on the visit by member of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, Minister of Foreign Affairs Isidoro Malmierca Peoli.

The Cuban and the South Yemeni sides, the communique says, believe that in contemporary conditions the correlation of forces has changed in favour of socialism, national independence and social progress. This became possible thanks to the efforts of the Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist community and the victories scored [passage indistinct] the activities of aggressive circles in capitalist countries that resist this policy.

They confirmed that a just and lasting peace in the Middle East is possible only on the basis of a full withdrawal of Israeli troops from all Arab territories occupied by Israel in 1967.

The PDRY and Cuba sharply condemned the barbarous attack by Israeli troops on southern Lebanon and demanded the immediate withdrawal of all Israeli troops from captured Lebanese territory.

The PDRY and Cuba again stated their solidarity with the just struggle by the people of Oman. They condemned the plots of imperialism and its agents to undermine the unity of the peoples in the Horn of Africa and reiterated the need to turn the Red Sea and Indian Ocean area into a zone of peace and stability free of foreign influence.

USSR, IRAQ SIGN TRADE PROTOCOL FOR 1978

LD211800Y Moscow TASS in English 1640 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 21, TASS--A meeting was held here today between the USSR Minister of Foreign Trade Nikolay Patolichev and Iraq's Deputy Minister of Trade Mahdi M. 'Awdah. They had a friendly exchange of views on questions of Soviet-Iraqi trade.

Signed on the same day was a protocol on trade turnover between the USSR and Iraq in 1978.

The Soviet Union will export to Iraq machinery and equipment, raw materials, recreational and household goods, and import from that country traditional Iraqi commodities as well as wool, carpets and handicrafts.

SOVIET, IRAQI FRIENDSHIP SOCIETIES SIGN ACCORD

LD211640Y Moscow TASS in English 1547 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD

["In the Interests of Strengthening Friendship and Cooperation"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, March 21 TASS--An agreement has been signed here today on cooperation between the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Cooperation with Foreign Countries, the Soviet-Iraqi Friendship Society and the Union of Iraqi Friendship Societies with the Peoples of Foreign Countries, the Iraqi-Soviet Friendship Society. A plan has been also signed for cooperation between these organizations for 1978-79.

From the Soviet side the document was signed by chairman of the board of the Soviet-Iraqi Friendship Society, USSR Minister of Public Education Mikhail Prokofyev. From the Iraqi side the document was signed by President of the Iraqi-Soviet Friendship Society Najih Khalil, who is currently on a visit in the Soviet Union.

The agreement outlines prospects for long-term cooperation in the mutual familiarization of the peoples of the two countries which achievements in the field of economy, social life, science, culture, arts as well as on questions of foreign and home policy. It expresses satisfaction with the results of implementation of the preceding similar agreement signed in 1969.

The plan provides for concrete activities in connection with the exchange of delegations, artistic companies, exhibitions and celebration of significant dates in the history of the peoples of the USSR and Iraq.

Addressing the signing ceremony, Mikhail Prokofyev expressed confidence that these documents will serve towards a further strengthening of friendship between the Soviet and Iraqi peoples, of relations between the two countries, whose development is based on the treaty of friendship and cooperation between the USSR and Iraq.

Najih Khalil expressed gratitide for the hospitality and spoke highly of the activity of the Soviet-Iraqi Friendship Society in familiarizing the Soviet people with Iraq's achievements in various fields. He also highly evaluated the stand of support taken by the Soviet Union vis-a-vis the just struggle of the peoples of Arab countries, in particular the courageous struggle of the Palestinian people.

SYRIAN-SOVIET SOCIETY OFFICIAL KILLED IN STREET

LD201800Y Moscow TASS in English 1644 GMT 20 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Damascus, March 20 TASS--A prominent public figure, Vice President of the Syrian-Soviet Friendship Society Ibrahim Naame was killed by unknown persons in a street in the centre of the city.

This is the doing of those forces that want to stop the Syrian people's progressive development, stated A. al-Ahmar, deputy general secretary of the Arab Socialist Renaissance Party. The Syrian people, he said, wrathfully brand with infamy those who betray the cause of the Arab nations.

SKACHKOV-LED USSR DELEGATION RETURNS FROM SYRIA

LD201725Y Moscow TASS in English 1515 GMT 20 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 20, TASS--The Soviet delegation led by Semen Skachkov, chairman of the Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, returned to Moscow from Damascus today after attending the festivities to mark the accomplishment of the construction of the Euphrates hydropower project and the meeting of the permanent Soviet-Syrian commission for economic and technical cooperation.

During the commission's meeting, the sides highly appreciated the level of Soviet-Syrian economic contacts and noted their steady and large-scale nature. They discussed prospects for Soviet-Syrian cooperation in the fields of power development and electrification, the oil-extracting industry, transport, irrigation and water-management construction as well as the training of Syrian national personnel.

GROMYKO GREETS KUWAITI FOREIGN MINISTER ON ANNIVERSARY

LD140938Y Moscow TASS in English 0825 GMT 14 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 14, TASS--Foreign Minister of the USSR Andrey Gromyko has sent a message to Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the state of Kuwait, conveying congratulations on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the USSR and the state of Kuwait. "I should like to express confidence, the message runs, that the relations of cooperation would continue developing between our countries in the interests of other friendly peoples of the Soviet Union and Kuwait, in the interests of universal peace."

MORE MATERIAL ON CONFLICT IN HORN OF AFRICA

U.S.-Somali Aid Agreement

LD210510v Moscow in English to North America 2230 GMT 20 Mar 78 LD

[Text] The United States is to grant Somalia $7 million in aid. An agreement to this effect was signed in Mogadiscio today by the United States Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Richard Moose. News agency dispatches say the United States is to send a large consignment of arms to Somalia.

In this connection Ethiopia has pointed out that American arms supplies to the Somali regime can only heighten tension in the Horn of Africa. Somalia has still not officially given up territorial claims to Ethiopia, Kenya and Djibouti.

Somalia's Imperialist Sponsors

LD211858v Moscow in English to Africa 1630 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The Somalian troops which invaded Ethiopian territory last summer have now been defeated. Somalia reports all its servicemen have been withdrawn from the Province of Ogaden. Does this mean the conflict on the Horn of Africa is coming to an end? Certain facts show that this is not quite the truth.

Ethiopia feels that although the present war was thrust upon it, there was no hostility between the peoples of the two countries. Ethiopia rightfully demands that the Somali authorities officially renounce their claims to the lands of its neighbors and pledge to respect the internationally accepted state borders and the charters of the United Nations and the OAU. Kenya shares this point of view. The aggressive plans of Mogadiscio included the lands of this country as well.

Somalia, however, doesn't seem to have given up these plans. It is fully supported to this day by forces that made it carry out aggressive actions against Ethiopia. There are continued shipments of NATO arms to the Somalis. The weapons come directly and through Saudi Arabia and other reactionary Arab regimes. The United States is especially active in this respect. When the conflict could have been settled by efforts of the Organization of African Unity the United States expressed its readiness to render Somalia direct military and other support. Assistant Secretary of State on African Affairs Richard Moose flew to Mogadiscio on a special mission. The world press makes it clear Americans are trying to persuade their NATO partners to support the Somali regime even more actively.

Having such backing, Somalia does not renounce its expansionist course. It counts on compensating for the damage done to the country and people during the armed confrontation with Ethiopia by piling up military equipment from the NATO arsenal. Such a stand of the Somali leadership and its imperialist sponsors whips up tension on the Horn of Africa and moves away the settlement of this harmful conflict.

COHESION OF PEOPLE TERMED NECESSARY FOR ETHIOPIA

LD220943Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Mar 78 p 5 LD

[Aleksandr Serbin article: "In the Interests of Unity"]

[Text] Revolutionary Ethiopia has achieved important successes in defending the state and its territorial integrity. The victories in the Ogaden, Addis Ababa notes, make possible restoration and consolidation of peace in the Horn of Africa, consolidation of the base of the Ethiopian revolution and creation of more favorable conditions for deepening socioeconomic transformations.

It is precisely the program for the profound restructuring of society and the socialist orientation proclaimed by Ethiopia's present leadership that infuriate the imperialists and all reactionaries. In their conspiracy against the country they are attempting to utilize its multinational character. Banking on feudal bourgeois nationalist circles, the enemies of the new Ethiopia want to dismember the country and to undermine the revolution's development.

After the failure of the "Ogaden operation" imperialist forces are linking their plans for interference in Ethiopia's internal affairs to a still greater extent with the activity of separatist elements in the northeastern Province of Eritrea. By supporting these elements, the imperialists and Arab reaction are striving to weaken Ethiopia and deprive it of outlets to the sea. And here reactionary Arab regimes such as in Saudi Arabia are hoping to establish strategic control over the Red Sea and to transform it into some kind of "Arab lake." Under these circumstances the Eritrean separatists find themselves involved in someone else's game and are objectively contributing to the implementation of imperialist schemes. However, the real interests of the province's population coincide with the interests of the entire Ethiopian people, who are striving to build their lives on the basis of new principles.

Ethiopia's revolutionary leadership points out that existing national problems were engendered by the colonial past and the policy of the country's former rulers. In the situation where the imperialists and their accomplices, interfering in Ethiopian affairs, are attempting to utilize nationalist and separatist sentiments, Ethiopia's revolutionary forces view the national question in the context of the class struggle inside the country and in the international arena. They consistently advocate the unity and state integrity of their homeland.

The national question in Ethiopia, including the Eritrean problem, is being solved within the framework of the program of the national democratic revolution. As the country's present leaders have repeatedly declared, the struggle for implementation of this program requires cohesion among all people's patriotic forces.

CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER ENDS VISIT TO ETHIOPIA

LD211922Y Moscow TASS in English 1809 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Addis Ababa, March 21 TASS--The Cuban foreign minister, Isidoro Malmierca Peoli, today concluded his official visit to Ethiopia. A joint communique and an agreement on cultural and other cooperation were signed during the visit.

Addresing newsmen at Addis Ababa airport, the Cuban minister said that the talks conducted with the Ethiopian leaders had become an important contribution to the further development and consolidation of fraternal ties between the two countries. He stressed that a coincidence of views on many questions was noted in the course of the discussion of bilateral relations and topical international problems.

The Cuban foreign minister condemned the intrigues by internal and external reaction directed at undermining the Ethiopian people's revolutionary gains. He stressed the importance of coordinating the efforts of the two countries in their joint struggle against intrigues by international imperialism.

ISRAELI-SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY ALLIANCE GROWS

LD151628Y Moscow TASS in English 1519 GMT 15 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 15, TASS--"The recent official visit the Israeli Finance Minister Simha Ehrlich paid to Pretoria has been keynoted by further consolidation of relations between Israel and the Republic of South Africa," the weekly NEW TIMES [NOVOYE VREMYA] writes.

"The community of ideological positions and political aims of the ruling circles of Israel and the Republic of South Africa has become more noticeable after the Begin cabinet came to power in Tel Aviv. It is now becoming more obvious that there is a military alliance between the racists and the Zionists," the weekly points out.

"Ironi, general director of the Israeli Military Industry Agency, has recently said that the Republic of South Africa is second to none in the list of Israeli arms buyers. As is clear from the review 'The Republic of South Africa and Armaments' distributed at the United Nations, Tel Aviv in the future will remain the main supplier of arms and military equipment for the South African Army."

"Contrary to the November, 1977 decision of the U.N. Security Council on compulsory and comprehensive embargo on arms deliveries to the Pretoria regime, the NEW TIMES writes, the Israeli rulers continue supplying the racists with arms, and not only of Israeli-make. Through Israel, military-industrial circles of the United States and other NATO countries have a possibility to channel to the Republic of South Africa their arms, and to remain, so to say, with their reputation 'untarnished'".

The world public has been voicing concern over reports on cooperation between Israel and the Republic of South Africa in nuclear arms production that appeared in the recent time in the Western press. This question became particularly acute in connection with the publication of a CIA report, which has recently been published, saying that Israel possesses nuclear weapons.

"If the previous governments of Israel tried to camouflage military links with Pretoria, the Begin government now in power conducts an open course of further consolidation of military ties with the racist Vorster regime. It is not accidental that two senior officials of the Defence Ministry accompanied the Israeli finance minister, Simha Ehrlich, on his trip to the Republic of South Africa."

Sanctions Ignored

LD211522Y Moscow TASS in English 1328 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD

[Text] London, March 21, TASS--Doy Jacobovitz, chairman of the textile division of the Israeli Manufacturers' Association, has said that trade between Israel and the Republic of South Africa may treble in the near future. He made this statement in Durban after negotiations held in Pretoria last week between a delegation of top Israeli industrialists and Chris Huenis, minister of economic affairs of the racist regime of the Republic of South Africa. Jacobovitz has made it clear that Israel will continue to disregard the demands of the international community on establishing economic sanctions against the Republic of South Africa.

In the recent time, visits of Israeli leaders to the Republic of South Africa have been put on a regular basis. The recent visit, paid to Pretoria by Israeli Finance Minister Simha Ehrlich, was also keynoted by further consolidation of relations between racists of the Republic of South Africa and Zionists of Israel. In the course of the visit a number of trade and economic agreements were concluded.

The strengthening Tel Aviv-Pretoria alliance is a cause of growing anxiety of the world and African public. Underlying this alliance are common inhuman conceptions of Zionism and apartheid, the desire of the reactionary forces of imperialism to break the will of the peoples fighting for independence, peace and progress.

Consolidation of Tel Aviv-Pretoria military links is a cause of independent Africa's particular concern. Contrary to the decision of the U.N. Security Council on mandatory and all-out embargo on arms deliveries to the regime of the Republic pf South Africa, Israeli rulers contiue supplying racists with arms. According to the British bulletin FOREIGN REPORT, apart from six Reshef missile-carriers that Pretoria ordered in Israel (three of which have already been supplied), the Republic of South Africa is planned to be supplied with missile carriers of quite a new type being built at Israeli shipyards. These ships have helicopter run-offs and are fitted out with Israeli-made Gabriel missiles.

Israel also assists the racists in developing their own nuclear weapons. The NATO countries, in circumvention of the U.N. Security Council resolution, send military equipment to the Republic of South Africa through Israel. According to reports of the British anti-apartheid movement, Britain already violated 14 times the embargo on arms deliveries to the Republic of South Africa.

All this cannot but make wary the African countries and the world public who discern in the strengthening of the Zionist-racist alliance a menace to peace and security in the African continent.

JSP CONGRESS PAPER 'HOSTILE' TO USSR ON TERRITORIAL ISSUE

LD211019Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Mar 78 p 5 LD

[Correspondent I. Latyshev dispatch: "A 'Course of Action' Adopted"]

[Text] Tokyo, 16 March--The 42d Japanese Socialist Party [JSP] Congress completed its work in Tokyo today. The congress discussed the organizational consolidation of the JSP and ways of broadening its influence among the masses. Today the congress delegates approved their basic document--the "Party's Course of Action for 1978."

The "course of action" emphasizes the validity of the JSP's struggle to revise Japanese foreign policy and the country's movement to a policy of nonalinement, peace and neutrality.

The document devotes considerable attention to Japan's domestic life and, particularly, to the Japanese economic crisis. Broad coverage is given to the grave unemployment situation of the Japanese working masses. More than 1 million workers are unemployed and more than 10 million have been temporarily laid off or threatened with layoffs in the immdeiate future. More than 6 million people earn extremely low wages.

The "course of action" directs the JSP toward a struggle to defend the interests of the working people on a series of specific issues, including the struggle against unemployment, for wage increases, the improvement of the social security system and the protection of the population's standard of living.

The congress' basic document notes the continued deterioration of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's political prestige. Among the basic political tasks the "course of action" proposes are the slogans of struggle against government corruption and the defense of a peaceful constitution and the democratic rights of the working people. Importance is also attached to the party's demands for the abrogation of the Japanese-U.S. military security treaty, the elimination of U.S. military bases in Japan and the government's abandonment of the policy of militarization and increases in the Japanese Self-Defense Forces. Moreover, the JSP's determination to develop the movement for the complete prohibition of nuclear weapons and against the production and use of the neutron bomb is emphasized.

One of the congress' resolutions contains an appeal to struggle against the strengthening of Japan's military cooperation with the United States and South Korea and Japan's involvement in any military conflicts.

The congress declared the party's intention to develop a movement to strengthen friendship with the Soviet Union. However, the JSP's position in certain aspects concerning Japanese-Soviet relations remains unclear. A number of elements in the document create the false impression that there is some sort of "territorial issue" in these relations. This issue does not, in fact, exist. Nor does the "course of action" point out the hostile attitude of certain points in the Japanese-Chinese "peace and friendship treaty" toward the Soviet Union.

CHAUVINISTS IGNORE PAST TRAGEDIES, SEEK NUCLEAR ARMS

LD211301Y Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 16 Mar 78 p 3 LD

[A. Biryukov commentary: "Nuclear Ambitions"]

[Text] During the last few weeks, the Japanese people have been assailed by a flurry of comments concerning the "possibility" and even the "need" for Japan to gain possession of nuclear weapons. Retired generals of the former imperial army, military men currently in service, manufacturers of weapons and even officials are making such statements. Japan's prime minister, T. Fukuda, talked in parliament about the possibility of equipping the Japanese Armed Forces with nuclear weapons.

People suffering from chauvinist ambitions are clearly seeking to use "shock therapy" on the Japanese, who experienced the tragedy of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, seeking to "cure" them of their "atomic allergy," and then to put nuclear weapons, unhindered, into the hands of revitalized armed forces. They have used such a method on several occasions already.

Shortly after Japan's surrender, efforts were made to blind Japan's inhabitants to violations of the postwar constitution, which prohibited the creation of any armed forces in Japan. Thus, in 1950, under the pretext of defending against an imagined "communist danger," the 75,000-strong "reserve police corps" was formed. In the next few years this corps was transformed into one of Asia's strongest armies with approximately 300,000 men, and attempts are now being made to equip this army with weapons of mass destruction.

The Japanese democratic public resolutely condemns this campaign by influential forces in their country and is demanding that the nuclear arming of Japan be prevented. "We believe," the influential bourgeois newspaper YOMIURI stresses, "that Japan's security must be insured by pursuing an active peaceful foreign policy and not through the improper buildup of military strength and the strengthening of the Japanese-U.S. security treaty."

USSR'S PATOLICHEV RECEIVES TOKYO GAS COMPANY PRESIDENT

LD201642Y Moscow TASS in English 1620 GMT 20 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 20, TASS--The USSR minister of foreign trade, Nikolay Patolichev, today received the president of the firm Tokyo Gas Company, Hiroshi Anzai, and had a conversation with him.

MALTSEV DISCUSSES USSR-MPR TIES WITH MONGOLIAN OFFICIAL

LD211139Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Mar 78 Morning Edition p 3 LD

[Text] TASS--Consultations between V.F. Maltsev, USSR first deputy foreign minister, and D. Yondon, Mongolian first deputy foreign minister, took place in Moscow 13-17 March. Questions of Soviet-Mongolian relations and certain international problems of general interest were examined.

H. Bandzragch, Mongolian ambassador to the USSR, participated in the talks, which were held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere.

AZERBAIJAN CONSTITUTIONAL BODY APPROVES DRAFT CONSTITUTION

LD211630Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1430 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD

[Text] The Azerbaijan SSR draft constitutional commission held a session in Baku today. The session was chaired by Aliyev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, first secretary of the Azerbaijan CP Central Committee and chairman of the republican draft constitutional commission. The commission has reviewed and on the whole approved the draft, and has decided to make a proposal to the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet Presidium that the draft constitution of the republic be published for an all-republican discussion.

UKRAINIAN CP CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM ENDS IN KIEV

AU211721Y Kiev Domestic Service in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 21 Mar 78 AU

[Excerpts] A plenum of the Ukrainian CP Central Committee was held today. The plenum listened to a report by Comrade Shcherbitskiy, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member, Ukrainian CP Central Committee first secretary and chairman of the commission for drafting the Ukrainian SSR constitution.

Comrade Shcherbitskiy delivered a concluding speech.

The plenum listened to a report by Comrade Vatchenko, Ukrainian CP Central Committee Politburo member and Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Presidium chairman, on the Ukrainian SSR state anthem.

The plenum adopted decisions on the issues discussed.

With this the plenum completed its proceedings.

KIRILENKO ADDRESSES CPSU CC MEETING ON ENGINE TECHNOLOGY

LD201830Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1750 GMT 20 Mar 78 LD

[Text] A meeting took place today in the CPSU Central Committee devoted to speeding up scientific and technical progress in building engines and perfecting the exploitation of

Kirilenko, Politburo member and Central Committee secretary, addressed the meeting. The participants were informed about the need to considerably speed up work on creating new and progressive types of internal combusion engines, lengthening the servicing period [uvelicheniye resursa], lowering the metal content and making them more economical.

The following took part in the meeting: Dolgikh and Ryabov, secretaries of the CPSU Central Committee; Kirillov, Martynov and Novikov, deputy chairmen of the USSR Council of Ministers; kraykom and obkom secretaries; department heads, and senior staff of the CPSU Central Committee.

BRIEFS

CONFERENCE ON COMMUNIST EDUCATION--An all-union conference of vocational and technical education workers opened in Kharkov on 14 March to discuss topical questions concerning the communist education of future workers and long-term planning in educational work. Representatives from all union republics in the country are taking part in the conference. [Kiev Domestic Service in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 14 Mar 78 AU]

RADIO REPORTS AGRICULTURAL PROGRESS FOR 20-21 MAR

LD220458 [Editorial Report LD] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 0500 GMT on 20 March reports that farms in Odesskaya Oblast have already sown more than 300,000 hectares to early cereals. The early sowing of crops in Nikolayevskaya Oblast is planned to be completed in 3 to 4 days. The radio adds that sowing of barley, oats, peas, feed crops and grasses has begun in Krasnodarskiy Kray. Meanwhile the mass checking of preparations for sowing has begun in Saratovskaya Oblast. Mechanizers of the Primorskiy Kray possess fully completed equipment for spring fieldwork.

The radio adds at 0530 GMT that while sowing is in progress in southern USSR, farms in other areas are completing seed preparation and machinery overhauls. The radio also mentions that farmers of Checheno-Ingushskaya ASSR have sown early grain crops on the last few hectares.

At 0800 GMT the radio reports that mass fieldwork by the land cultivators has begun in Chimkentskaya Oblast in Kazakhstan. Mechanizers are working two shifts around the clock to carry out spring work.

At 0900 GMT the radio reports that early spring crops sowing has ended in south Moldavia. Preparations for sowing sunflowers and corn are now underway, and fieldwork has also started.

At 1100 GMT the radio reports that warm, sunny weather has permitted the mechinizers in the Kuban to begin their spring sowing work. Early barley, peas and oats are being sown. Sugarbeet, corn and rice are to follow.

At 1200 GMT the radio reports that sovkhoz and kolkhoz farm mechanizers near the Don have harrowed 1 million hectares so far. Farms in the southern rayons of Rostovskaya Oblast have begun to sow early graincrops and grain-leguminous crops.

At 1900 GMT the radio reports that many farms are sowing cotton in south Uzbekistan. The radio also notes that spring sowing has started in Kirgiziya.

At 0500 GMT on 21 March, the radio reports that soil in the Kuban is drying out quickly. Aerial winter-cropdressing has been carried out on 410,000 hectares. The radio adds that equipment is now ready for spring fieldwork in the Volga area. More than 500,000 tons of seeds have been prepared for sowing in Volgogradskaya Oblast; the seeds are mostly of the very best condition.

At 1100 GMT the radio reports that in the lower Volga valley, land husbanders of Gorodovikovskiy Rayon are the first in the Kalmytskaya ASSR to begin mass sowing of early spring crops. First-class seeds of the best zonal graded wheat, barley, peas and corn are being sown. The radio also reports that more than 6,000 tractors are engaged in preparing soil for spring crops in Belorussia. According to the radio, crop dusters are to help in preparing almost 4 million hectares of agricultural crop land in Azerbaijan this year. The radio also reports that animal husbanders in Kustanayskaya Oblast have increased the sale of meat to the state of 50 percent since the beginning of 1978 compared to the same period last year. Reception points have received more than 50,000 head of cattle with an average weight of 463 kilograms.

At 1500 GMT the radio reports that according to Vladimir Stepanovich Kuntsevich, chief of the USSR Ministry of Agriculture Main Administration of Mechanization and Electrification of Agriculture, 90 percent of the country's tractors are ready for fieldwork. The rate of machinery repair work is higher than it was last year. Equipment overhaul has almost been completed in the Ukraine, Belorussia, Latvia, Kirgiziya and in many oblasts. The official points out, however, that Turkmen farms as well as those in a number of Kazakh oblasts are lagging behind in this work. Serious concern is shown regarding the preparation of the Kirovets and T-150K tractors, which are mainly used in farms in the RSFSR and Kazakhstan. Because of a lack of spare parts many of these tractors are not yet ready for operation.

RSFSR TO INCREASE GRAIN AREAS IN NON-CHERNOZEM ZONE

LD211417Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Mar 78 p 2 LD

[Unattributed report under general headline: "After Criticism"]

[Text] "The Non-Chernozem Grain Field." RSFSR Gosplan Chairman N. Maslennikov has told the editorial office that the editorial under this heading (PRAVDA 24 November 1977) was discussed at a session of the RSFSR Gosplan.

The Gosplan and the republican Ministry of Agriculture, together with local party, soviet and economic organs, have taken steps to expand sowing of grain crops in every oblast and autonomous republic of the zone. In 1978 it is planned to increase the areas sown with grain crops to 171.1 million hectares, 730,000 hectares more than last kear, and increase the gross grain harvest to 26.8 million tons. By the end of the 5-year plan, about 600,000 hectares of reclaimed land will be under cultiviation.

AGRICULTURAL ACADEMY HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING IN MOSCOW

LD211305Y Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 16 Mar 78 p 2 LD

[Unattributed report: "Vaskhnil Annual Meeting"]

[Text] The annual general meeting of V.I. Lenin All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences [Vaskhnil] scientists was held in Moscow yesterday. It was opened by Vaskhnil President P.P Lobanov. A report entitled "The Main Results of Vaskhnil's Work and the Scientists' Tasks in Solving the Most Important Scientific and Technical Problems in the Sphere of Agriculture" was delivered by Vaskhnil Academician G.S. Muromtsev, chief scientific secretary of the academy's presidium.

Taking part in the work of the general meeting were V.K. Mesyats, USSR minister of agriculture; Yu.V. Sedykh, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee Agriculture Section, and officials of the CPSU Central Committee, ministries and departments.

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